WWII THE NAZIS BECAME HEROES IN GERMAN CHILDREN'S EYES

Bringing History to Life

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HITLER CULT OF THE LEADER

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HITLER YOUTH TRAINED FOR DEATH

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PERSECUTED GROUPS WENT UNDERGROUND

PEOPLE GOT CHEAP CARS

NAZIS PROTECTED BIG FAMILIES

OLYMPICS USED FOR NAZI SHOW

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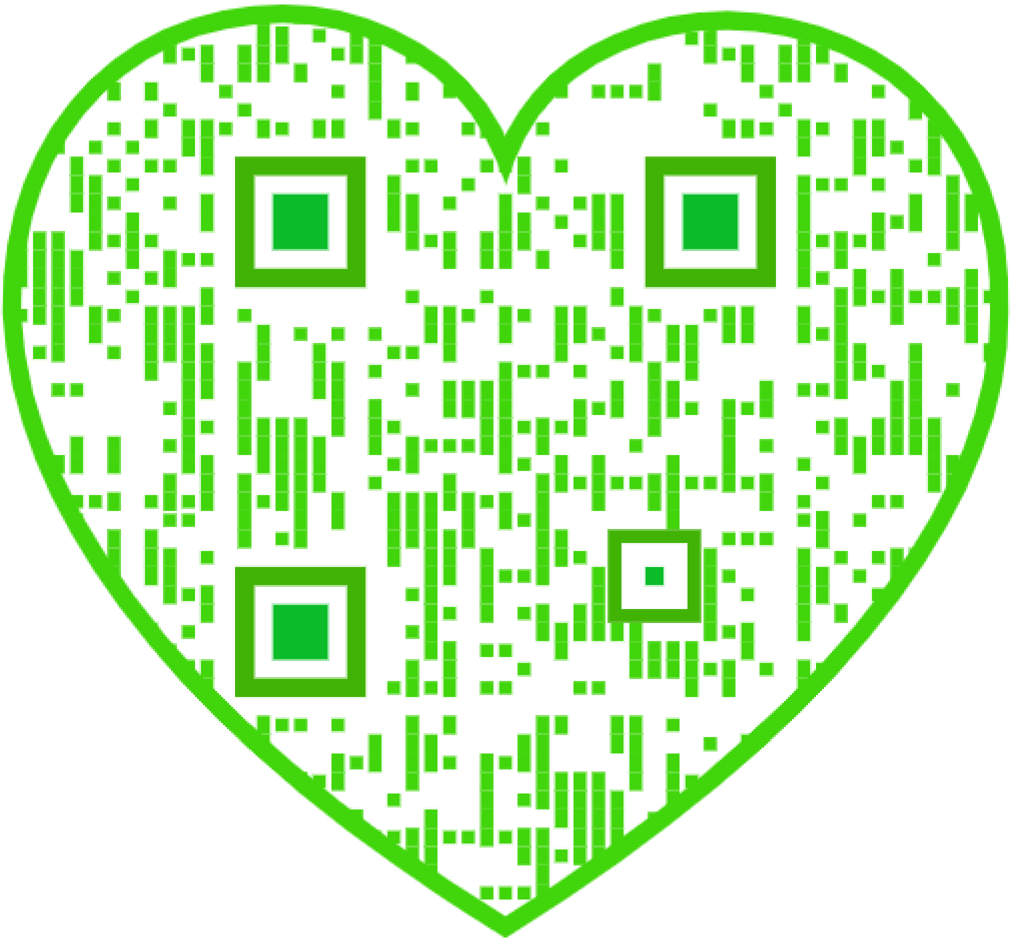
Germany worked its way out of crisis • Berlin to be the centre of the world • Home front collapsed



Hitler seduces an entire nation

Germany in the early 1930s is falling apart. The population is disillusioned, poverty is spreading, and unemployment is everywhere. Many Germans see Adolf Hitler as the only man who can pull the country out of crisis. The Nazi leader's promise of bread and work for the people makes him popular, and his demands for revenge for the humiliating peace terms after World War I find a sympathetic audience. Soon after the Nazis first seize power, Hitler begins an unprecedented transformation of society: the nemployed are sent to build roads, young folk are forced into the Hitler Youth and women are rewarded for giving birth to many purebred children. The young German democracy that brought the Nazi party to the fore will be swept aside. Hitler establishes himself as dictator and commander of the German army, which quickly steps up to become a modern war machine. Bringing History to Life takes you on a journey back to the Third Reich.

Happy reading!

The members of the Nazi youth organisation Bund Deutscher Mädel learned to admire German soldiers.

Germany regained pride

Germany under Hitler was a nation that believed in its greatness – but it was also a country where many lived in fear.

Read about the Nazis on page 6

1933-44

1933

12 **Germany works its way out of crisis**
Industry flourishes – but only with borrowed money.

1935

22 **Hitler Youth are trained for death**
Boys learn to become good and obedient soldiers.

1936

32 **Olympics exploited for propaganda**
Hitler seizes the opportunity to show off the Reich.

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Himmler will provide the Third Reich with new blonde inhabitants.

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Persecuted groups evade the regime in a number of ways.

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The party's idealogy is fed from the nursery upwards.

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102 **Germans fight losing battle against Hitler**
The regime cracks down on even the slightest criticism.

1944

112 **The Third Reich's home front collapses**
After 12 year's of Hitler's rule, Germany lies in ruins.

1933-35

30TH JANUARY, 1933: German president Paul von Hindenburg appoints Nazi leader Adolf Hitler as German Chancellor.

5TH MARCH: Hitler's party, the National Socialists, secures 43.9 percent of the vote in elections to the German Reichstag.

23RD MARCH: the Reichstag passes the Enabling Act, making Hitler dictator.

12TH AUGUST: British Conservative politician Winston Churchill warns about the dangers of Germany's rearmament in a speech.

Autobahns pull Germany out of crisis

23RD SEPTEMBER The construction of highways and tanks leads Germany out of the economic crisis. Unemployment keeps dropping, and the Nazis are hailed as the country's rescuers. But the figures are manipulated, and success is hollow.

Read about Hitler's "miracle" on page 12

12TH NOVEMBER: at the first general election in the new one-party state, National Socialists secure 92 percent of the vote.

20TH DECEMBER: the German government says that 400,000 citizens are to be sterilised due to "hereditary defects".

20TH JANUARY, 1934: Germany and Poland sign a ten-year non-aggression pact.

6TH FEBRUARY: far-right leagues gather in front of the National Assembly in Paris in an unsuccessful coup against the French Third Republic.

9TH FEBRUARY: Gaston Doumergue forms a new coalition government in France.

8TH MARCH: a photograph taken by astronomer Edwin Hubble shows as many galaxies as the Milky Way has stars.

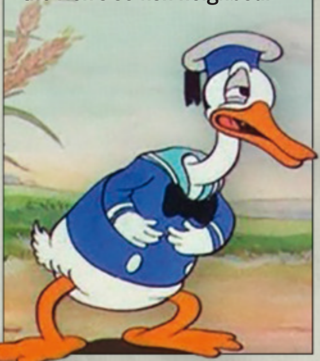
21ST APRIL: Robert Wilson of London takes a photo of the Loch Ness monster. The picture is revealed as fake in 1994.

7TH MAY: a Filipino diver discovers the world's largest pearl. It measures 24 centimetres in diameter and weighs 6.4 kilograms.

28TH MAY: Canadians Oliva and Elzire Dionne become parents to the first quintuplets to survive infancy. All are girls.

Donald Duck makes cinematic debut

9TH JUNE: Donald Duck appears for the first time in the Disney cartoon "The Wise Little Hen", but only in a supporting role. Donald is the Hen's selfish neighbour.



24TH JANUARY, 1935: the world's first canned beer sold in the US by the Gottfried Krueger Brewing Company.

26TH FEBRUARY: Hitler orders the buildup of the German Luftwaffe, in direct violation of the 1919 Treaty of Versailles.

15TH MAY: Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin opens the newly built metro in Moscow to the Russian public.

H.J.
DEUTSCHE ARBEITER JUGEND

Hitler Youth trains for war

14TH SEPTEMBER Millions of German boys between 10 and 18 years are forced into the Nazi youth corps where they're brainwashed and trained for battle.

Read about the Hitler Youth on page 22

15TH SEPTEMBER: Nuremberg Laws come into force, depriving native Jewish people of their German nationality.

30TH SEPTEMBER: President Franklin D Roosevelt inaugurates the Hoover Dam a full five months before its actually completed.

12TH DECEMBER: SS leader Heinrich Himmler sets up Lebensborn, a programme designed to increase birth rates of "Aryan" children.

6TH FEBRUARY 1936: the fourth Winter Olympic Games opens in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Germany.

17TH FEBRUARY: the Phantom, the first superhero to wear a tight-fitting costume and mask, debuts in comic form in the US.

7TH MARCH: Nazi Germany remilitarises the Rhineland in direct violation of several international treaties.

19TH APRIL: an Arab revolt in Palestine erupts against both the British government and Jewish immigration.

17TH MAY: Italy annexes Ethiopia and combines it with Eritrea and Somaliland to form the Italian East Africa colony.

28TH MAY: English mathematician Alan Turing submits a science article, "On Computable Numbers..." to the London Mathematical Society. The article describes the principles of a precursor to the modern computer.

17TH JULY: the Spanish Army of Africa launches a coup against the Second Spanish Republic, which will lead to the Spanish Civil War.

Art reflected Nazi ideals

1936 Symbolic sculptures, bombastic buildings and strong athletes express Nazi ideals of totalitarian power and an Aryan people with superior strength.

Read about Nazi art on page 40

GEWIDMET VON
DER BELEGSCHAFT

25TH NOVEMBER: Japan and Germany form the Anti-Comintern Pact to counter communism and the Soviet Union.

30TH NOVEMBER: London's Crystal Palace, built for the 1851 World Exhibition, is destroyed in a fire.

Olympics exploited for propaganda

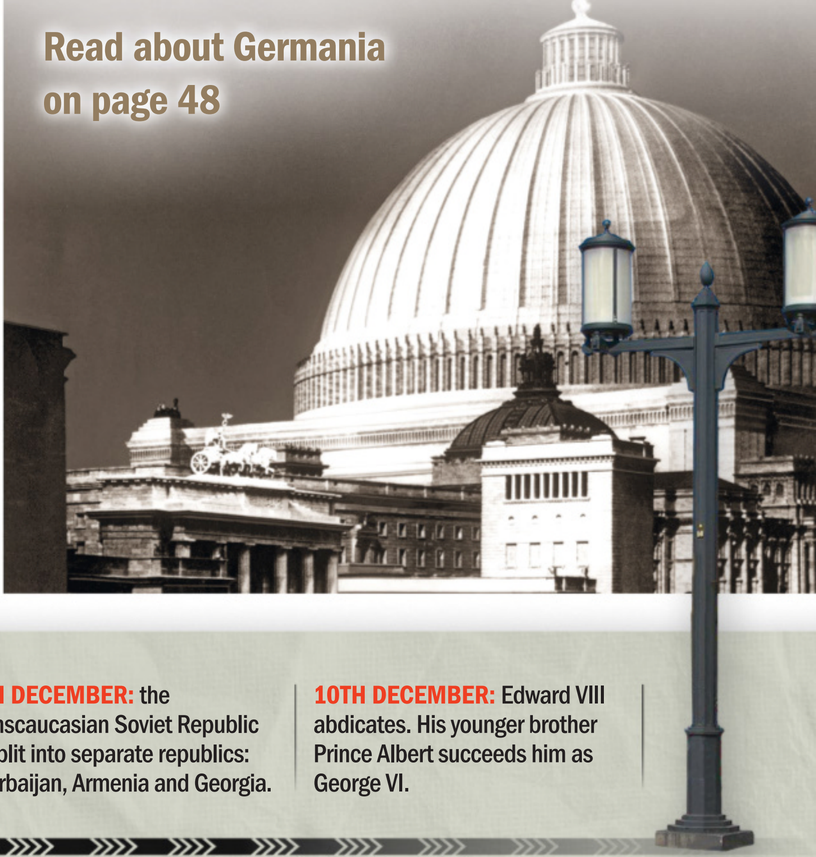
1ST AUGUST Hitler doesn't like sport, but the Führer sees an opportunity to present a glamorous image of Nazi Germany through the Olympics. The propaganda games are a success, with enthusiastic foreign reports.

Read about the Berlin Olympics on page 32

Hitler draws dream city

1936 Hitler believes the German capital is pitiful, and draws up new plans for a renamed Berlin called Germania. The city's central axis must be a victory avenue from a giant triumphal arch to the Great Hall.

Read about Germania on page 48



14TH AUGUST: Rainey Bethea is hanged in Owensboro, Kentucky, convicted of raping and murdering a 70-year-old woman. The hanging is the last public execution in the US.

5TH SEPTEMBER: photographer Robert Capa takes his famous image of a partisan being shot during the Spanish Civil War (The Falling Soldier). The photo's authenticity is later disputed.

7TH SEPTEMBER: the last Tasmanian wolf (thylacine) dies at Hobart Zoo in Tasmania.

28TH SEPTEMBER: Sweden's "Holiday Government", formed in the spring, steps down after elections. Prime Minister Axel Pehrsson-Bramstorp is replaced by former PM Per Albin Hansson.

3RD NOVEMBER: Franklin D Roosevelt is re-elected as US president after a landslide.

5TH DECEMBER: the Transcaucasian Soviet Republic is split into separate republics: Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.

10TH DECEMBER: Edward VIII abdicates. His younger brother Prince Albert succeeds him as George VI.

1936

26TH APRIL 1937: the Luftwaffe bombs the Basque town of Guernica. The bombing inspires a painting named after the town by Pablo Picasso.

28TH MAY: Conservative Neville Chamberlain becomes British Prime Minister.

Amelia Earhart vanishes without trace

2ND JULY: Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappear during Earhart's attempt to become the first female circumnavigator.

7TH JULY: Japanese forces invade China.

31ST JULY: the Soviet Union executes 75,950 "former kulaks, active anti-Soviet elements, and criminals", deporting an additional 193,000 to camps.

5TH NOVEMBER: 5,000 Republican supporters are massacred in the town of Piedrafita de Babia, Spain.

5TH NOVEMBER: Hitler lays out his plans for Lebensraum in Eastern Europe during a secret meeting in the Reich Chancellery.

13TH DECEMBER: the Battle of Nanjing ends with Japanese occupation of the Chinese city. Over 300,000 Chinese die during the occupation.

29TH DECEMBER: the Irish Free State becomes the Republic of Ireland after a referendum to adopt a new Irish constitution.

4TH FEBRUARY 1938: Hitler dismantles the Reich War Ministry, replacing it with the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht, giving him direct control over the military.

12TH MARCH: Germans occupy Austria in the so-called Anschluß.

Accidental invention

1938: during an experiment with a new coolant, chemist Roy Plunkett sees that tetrafluoroethylene, a gas, solidifies as a smooth coating on the inside of a pressure bottle. The material is then patented as Teflon.

Hitler is the new Messiah

30TH SEPTEMBER Adolf Hitler is not only head of state, but also viewed as a demigod in German people's eyes. This extreme devotion to the Führer isn't spontaneous, but the result of many years of propaganda by Joseph Goebbels, which portrays Hitler as the saviour of Germany.

Read about the cult of Hitler on page 56

1ST OCTOBER: German troops enter German-speaking areas of Czechoslovakia, Sudetenland, which Hitler annexes.

30TH OCTOBER: Orson Welles' radio dramatisation of the novel *The War of the Worlds* spreads a wave of panic across US cities.

9TH NOVEMBER: Nazi activists loot Jewish shops and synagogues in Germany. The incident is called Kristallnacht (Crystal Night).

1937-38

27TH FEBRUARY 1939: France and Britain recognise Franco's government in Spain.

15TH MARCH: Czechoslovakia ceases to exist as a nation state when German troops occupy the remaining parts of Bohemia and Moravia.

17TH MAY: Sweden, Norway and Finland reject German offers of non-aggression pacts.

1ST SEPTEMBER: German troops invade Poland – World War II breaks out. Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and Finland declare themselves neutral.

Nazis kidnap children in their thousands

7TH OCTOBER Children with the right genes are in high demand in Germany as the Nazis resort to kidnapping and birth programmes to obtain new fair-haired and blue-eyed inhabitants for the Third Reich.

Read about Lebensborn on page 62

14TH OCTOBER: *HMS Royal Oak* is sunk by a German U-boat in the naval base at Scapa Flow.

30TH NOVEMBER: Soviet forces cross the border into neutral Finland and bomb Helsinki in the first throes of the Winter War.

15TH DECEMBER: the romantic movie "Gone with the Wind" starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable makes its premiere in the United States.

28TH DECEMBER: Britain introduces rationing of bacon, butter and sugar.

4TH JANUARY 1940: the head of the Luftwaffe, Hermann Göring, takes control of the German war industry.

10TH JANUARY: a German plane containing Hitler's secret plans to invade Western Europe crash-lands in Belgium. The incident leads to the Netherlands mobilising its defences.

3RD MARCH: a timed bomb kills five at the offices of Swedish communist newspaper *Norrskensflammans*.

9TH APRIL: Germany invades Denmark and Norway.

10TH MAY: Winston Churchill takes over as British Prime Minister after Neville Chamberlain's resignation.

14TH MAY: the Dutch army surrenders after heavy bombing of Rotterdam.

26TH MAY: the evacuation of 300,000 Allied troops at Dunkirk begins.

14TH JUNE: German forces occupy Paris.

10TH JULY: beginning of the Battle of Britain.

3RD-6TH AUGUST: Soviet annexation of the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

7TH SEPTEMBER: the Blitz starts with nightly bombings of London by the Luftwaffe.

15TH OCTOBER: Charlie Chaplin's satirical war movie "The Dictator" premieres.

16TH OCTOBER: US starts registering around 16 million conscripted men.

28TH OCTOBER: Italian troops invade Greece.

The Gestapo is unleashed

1941 During the war, the Gestapo tightens its grip on Germany's population. The Nazi secret police relies heavily on help from a network of informers and agents.

Read about the secret police on page 72

GEHEIME
STAATSPOLIZEI
7674

12TH FEBRUARY: policeman Albert Alexander is the first to be treated intravenously with antibiotics for an infection at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford. He eventually dies, but only because of a shortage of penicillin.

Peugeot launches small electric car

1ST MAY: in response to the occupying power's fuel restrictions, French carmaker Peugeot launches the VLV electric microcar.

22ND JUNE: Nazi Germany invades the Soviet Union.

12TH NOVEMBER: Battle of Moscow begins.

7TH DECEMBER: bombers from Japanese aircraft carriers launch a surprise attack on the US naval base at Pearl Harbor.

8TH DECEMBER: President Roosevelt officially declares war on Japan.

1939-41

2ND JANUARY: Japanese troops occupy the Philippine capital, Manila.

13TH JANUARY: a German test pilot uses an ejector seat for the first time on a Heinkel He 280 jet fighter plane.

20TH JANUARY: the Berlin government and senior SS officers implement the "Final Solution" on the Jewish question: the relocation and extermination of all Jews in Europe.

1ST FEBRUARY: Vidkun Quisling becomes Norway's Prime Minister.

15TH FEBRUARY: Allied forces in the British crown colony Singapore surrender to the Japanese. About 130,000 Indian, Australian and British soldiers are taken prisoner.

30TH MAY: the RAF conducts the first bombing raid using over a thousand planes, destroying large parts of Cologne.

21ST JUNE: the German Afrika Korps led by General Erwin Rommel occupy the port city of Tobruk in north-eastern Libya. Around 32,000 Allied soldiers are taken prisoner.

Nazism governs family life

1942 Women are sent home to bear children, the children are taught to worship their Führer, and the men train for battle. Nazi ideology bores deep into private lives and sustains gender stereotypes in Germany.

Read about the family on page 94

Jews survive in hiding

22ND JUNE While the Nazis systematically kill millions of Jews in concentration camps, a few survive in the Third Reich through perpetual flight.

Read about hidden Jews on page 84

18TH JULY: German test pilot Fritz Wendel flies a jet-powered version of the Messerschmitt Me 262 fighter plane.

20TH AUGUST: a measurable amount of the element plutonium is isolated for the first time in the US at the University of Chicago.

21ST AUGUST: German Alpine hunters plant a Nazi flag on top of Europe's highest peak, the 5,642-metre-high Mount Elbrus in the Caucasus.

23RD SEPTEMBER: the US puts the Manhattan Project into action under the direction of Major General Leslie R Groves. The aim is to produce a nuclear bomb.

16TH OCTOBER: 40,000 people die during a hurricane and subsequent flooding in the Bay of Bengal in India.

30TH OCTOBER: British sailors board the U-559 submarine and recover the vessel's Enigma code machine and codebooks.

8TH NOVEMBER: 400 French resistance fighters in Algeria pave the way for the landing of 100,000 American and British troops in North Africa.

26TH NOVEMBER: the film "Casablanca" with Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman premieres in New York.

10TH DECEMBER: Germans perform the first powered tests of the flying V1 bomb off the Baltic coast in Peenemünde.

1942

20TH JANUARY 1943: German air strike on a school in London, killing 41 children aged six to 14 years as well as six teachers.

24TH JANUARY: German papers bring bad news from the Eastern Front for the first time, while the radio plays sad music.

28TH FEBRUARY: six Norwegians successfully sabotage a heavy water plant at Vemork in Rjukan, Norway.

GEGEN DIKTATUR UND

Young resist the regime

FEBRUARY Youths from the White Rose group hand out leaflets that call for resistance against the dictatorship. But few dare to challenge Hitler's iron grip on Germany.

Read about rebels on page 102

13TH MARCH: the Finnish government signs a trade agreement with the Germans in Helsinki.

ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY
Le Petit Prince
Avec dessins par l'auteur

First publication of The Little Prince

6TH APRIL: the story of *The Little Prince*, written by French aristocrat and pilot Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, is published for the first time.

19TH APRIL: Swiss chemist Albert Hofmann first takes the psychedelic drug LSD that he's developed, and makes detailed notes of his experience.

26TH APRIL: thousands of Swedish anti-fascists protest a native Nazi congress at the Royal Mounds in Uppsala.

29TH APRIL: German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, leading the church's resistance to Nazism, is arrested and later hanged in Flossenburg concentration camp.

12TH MAY: the Trident Conference begins in Washington DC with both Franklin D Roosevelt and Winston Churchill in attendance. The meeting results in agreement on the date for an Allied invasion of Europe: D-Day.

11TH JULY: Reichsführer Himmler orders the destruction of the ghettos in Poland.

29TH AUGUST: Germany dissolves the Danish government after a wave of strikes and riots.

8TH SEPTEMBER: the Italian Prime Minister surrenders the country unconditionally to British and US forces.

19TH OCTOBER: the first exchange of prisoners of war between Britain and Germany takes place in Gothenburg under the supervision of the Swedish Red Cross.

2ND DECEMBER: the German battleship *Scharnhorst* sinks in the Barents Sea after an Allied attack. Only 36 of the ship's 1,900 crew members survive.

Constant grief and hunger

1944 Cities lie in ruins, food is in short supply, and family after family is notified that a son or husband has been killed at the front. Morale declines in the Third Reich.

Read about German life in 1944 on page 112

2ND JANUARY: 13,000 Australian and US troops go ashore in Papua New Guinea to cut off a Japanese retreat.

27TH JANUARY: the Soviet Union breaks the two-year German siege of Leningrad and begins to drive the invaders back westward.

6TH JUNE: D-Day – Operation Overlord – begins. During the day 155,000 Allied soldiers land on the Normandy beaches.

9TH JUNE: Stalin launches the Vyborg-Petrozavodsk Offensive against Finland.

20TH JULY: Hitler survives an assassination attempt led by Claus von Stauffenberg.

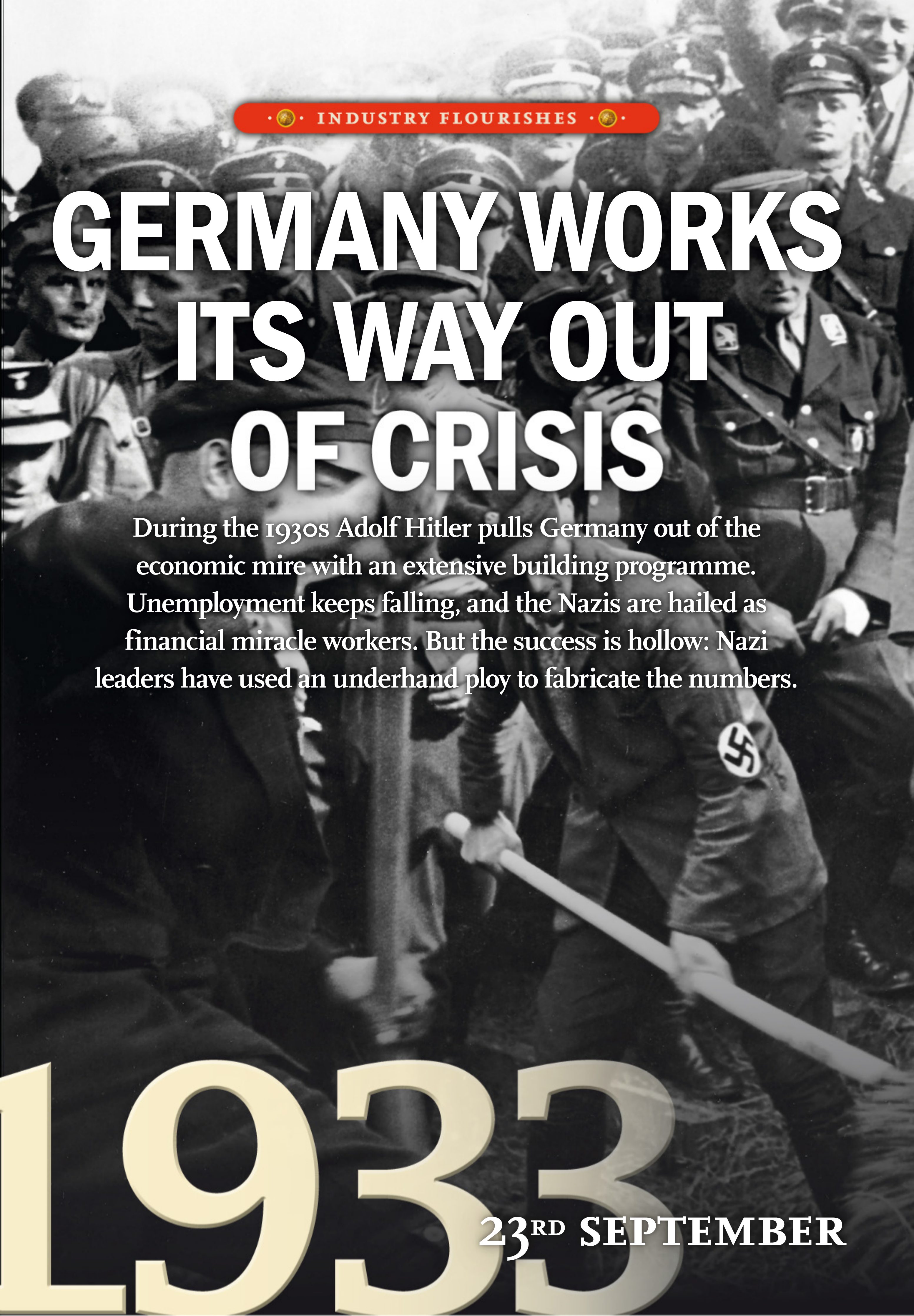
24TH AUGUST: the Allies liberate Paris.

19TH SEPTEMBER: Finland and the Soviet Union sign a ceasefire agreement.

3RD DECEMBER: fierce fighting breaks out between communists and royalists in the liberated Greece.

16TH DECEMBER: Germany launches its last major offensive of the war with the Battle of the Bulge.

1943-44



INDUSTRY FLOURISHES

GERMANY WORKS ITS WAY OUT OF CRISIS

During the 1930s Adolf Hitler pulls Germany out of the economic mire with an extensive building programme. Unemployment keeps falling, and the Nazis are hailed as financial miracle workers. But the success is hollow: Nazi leaders have used an underhand ploy to fabricate the numbers.

1933

23rd SEPTEMBER

Fritz Todt
Adolf Hitler

Hitler wasn't content with simply breaking ground when construction of the autobahns (highways) started; he dug until he dripped with sweat.

Germany, 1933

THE STAGE IS SET

Germany's economy is first crippled after World War I by galloping inflation. In 1929, the country receives another blow as the Wall Street crash sends unemployment sky high. The dire situation is perfect for the Nazis, who want to pull the country out of poverty through a programme to boost industry, agriculture and the military.

Journalists and photographers flocked to a building site at Darmstadt. Here the press witnessed an unusual scene: Reich chancellor Adolf Hitler watched a column of 720 men marching, each carrying a spade over his shoulder. That morning the men had been unemployed, but now they had a mission. The team would start building a new autobahn (highway) to bind together the German Empire.

"Today we stand at the threshold of a tremendous start", Hitler stressed in a speech on Reich radio transmitted into German homes. "The time will come when rain, frost and snow will make the work trying and difficult for everyone. But it is necessary. This work must be done

"In taking on a difficult task today", the Chancellor continued, "you are ensuring that hundreds of thousands more will receive work in the factories and workshops by virtue of your increased buying power." Hitler carried on in this vein before concluding energetically: "German workers, to work!" To punctuate his words, the Führer grabbed a spade from in front of him, forcing it into the ground.

Behind him stood Fritz Todt: Todt had been appointed by Hitler to the role of Inspector General for German Roadways and the engineer later described the scene: "Again and again he plunged the shovel into the soil heap. There was nothing symbolic about the effort, this was true construction. Two workers came, and all continued until the mound was dug out in a satisfactory manner, and sweat dripped from Hitler's forehead".

2 million

Germans were employed in construction in 1936, compared to 600,000 in 1933. Many worked on transport links building railways, roads, harbours and canals.

Such a striking act could almost only herald better times – and optimism was needed. The empire was in crisis after several years of recession and spiralling unemployment.

GERMANY WAS ON THE BRINK

Hitler's first of many shovel-loads in September 1933 led to an autobahn connecting Hamburg with Basel, literally paving the way for progress. This new road network intended exclusively for motor vehicles would bring Germany into the modern era.

Equally important to the Nazis was that the work would lead to a drastic fall in the number of unemployed, which had been approaching a staggering six million. Todt promised that a total of 600,000, or 10 percent of all unemployed, would find a job in road construction.

The entire nation had the opportunity to follow the initiative: Germans had left work early so that everyone could hear the radio broadcast from Darmstadt. And many felt encouraged by Hitler's speech. When he came to power just eight months earlier, Hitler had inherited an economy in ruins. Large war reparations after the defeat in WWI had drained the country and

2 MILLIONEN
ERWERBSLOSE
1,2 MILLIARDEN
FÜR FÜRSTEN

Germans went on the streets to protest against unemployment.

GERMANY IS PUT TO WORK

1933

1ST JUNE
Hitler signs a law to combat unemployment. The plan's main aim is the construction of new highways called autobahns, but public buildings such as hospitals and ports are also on the drawing board.

1ST JUNE
A betrothed couple can get a marriage loan of 1,000 Reichsmark if the woman withdraws from the labour market. The couple must be both Aryan and healthy.

Child-producing German mothers were hailed on cups.

The Havel bridge in Berlin helped link the highway network.

led the economy into a vicious cycle of inflation and rising foreign loans. Bit by bit, Germany had become dependent on the US economy. To pay off the debt Germans had taken new loans from the Americans, who also imported large quantities of German goods. The US stock exchange crash in Wall Street on 24th October, 1929 was therefore a double disaster for the Germans: first, the Americans' lack of money led to their demands for the repayment of German loans, while the US also imposed high tariffs to protect its own goods. The consequence was that German exports plunged.

One by one, factories and businesses closed. In 1932, the production of German goods dropped to just 58 percent of 1928 levels. And unemployment shot up. At the end of 1929 about 1.5 million were out of work. Three years later the figure had quadrupled to more than 30 percent of the workforce.

"The misery of our people has been terrible to behold. Millions of industrial proletariat are unemployed and starving; the whole of the middle class and the small artisans have been impoverished", Hitler declared in a proclamation to the German people on 1st February, 1933, a few days after taking power.

At a factory in Elbing, the Führer's visit helped to boost worker morale.

During the campaign the new Chancellor had promised "work and bread" to everyone and so the tide began to turn. Three months after taking power the Nazi regime presented "The Unemployment Relief Act". The government also allocated one billion Reichsmark for public works and provided grants to private construction companies.

HIGHWAYS PAVED ROAD TO RECOVERY

The construction of the autobahn, roads reserved for motorised vehicles, was Hitler's foremost means of

NAZI INITIATIVES

SUMMER
Hitler expands the army to 300,000 men and builds 1,000 new aircraft for the Air Force. Both initiatives directly contradict the Treaty of Versailles from World War I.

23RD SEPTEMBER
Hitler breaks the ground for a new autobahn between Hamburg and Basel.

1934

APRIL
Economist Hjalmar Schacht introduces Mefo loans, debt bills issued by the German government to cover a shortfall.

1935

JUNE
Reichsarbeitsdienst (The Reich Labour Service) is founded. The service employs men between 18 and 25 years.

AUTUMN
Hitler forbids publication of the Budget.

1936

DECEMBER
Germany's spend on its military build-up exceeds 10 percent of its budget: a large part was financed through loans.

The VW was going to be the car that all German families could afford – but holes soon appeared in the idea.

1937

SPRING
Sample models of the Volkswagen that Hitler has ordered are ready to test. None of the 330,000 families who have ordered and paid for their car will ever receive their vehicle.

1938

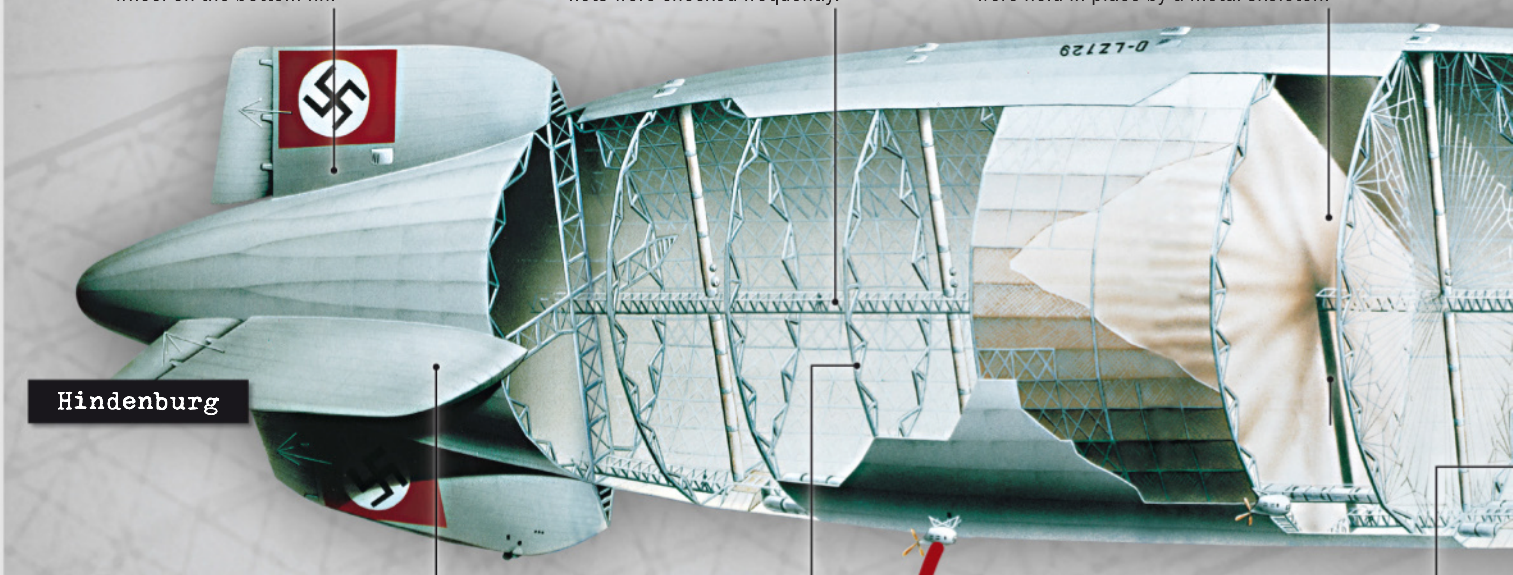
NOVEMBER
The National Bank announces that two billion Reichsmark is missing from the German treasury.

1939

JANUARY
According to the National Bank, national bankruptcy in Germany is imminent. Hitler knows it.

Zeppelin was king of the skies

Hindenburg, named after the German Reich president, holds the record as the largest man-made vehicle in the air. With a length of 245 metres the airship was just 24 metres shorter than the Titanic.



Tail fins: the four large tail fins were 32 metres long and 15 metres wide. On the ground, the stern was supported by a wheel on the bottom fin.

Gangway: the airship's interior was patrolled regularly by the crew, who checked fuel and ballast tanks. Gas bags, lines and nets were checked frequently.

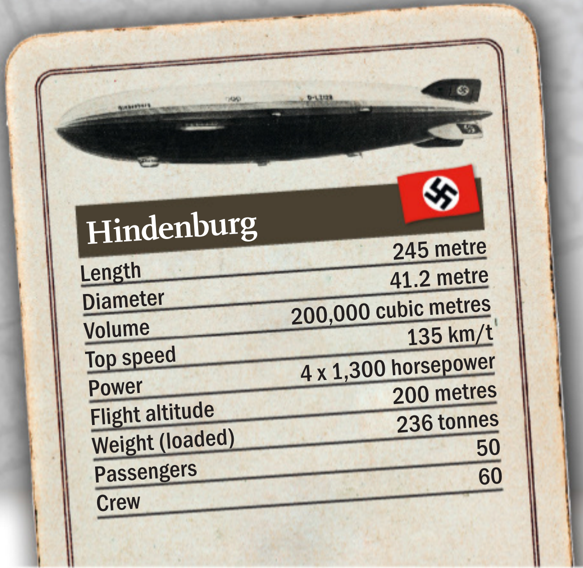
Gas bags: 16 huge gas bags with a total of 200,000 cubic metres of hydrogen were located in the hull, following the same principle as a hot-air balloon. The bags were held in place by a metal skeleton.

Fabric covering: cotton fabric covered with silver-coloured varnish reflected the sun's rays, so the hydrogen on the ship didn't overheat.

Hull: the airship was built around a skeleton made from a special lightweight alloy called duralumin. The skeleton determined the ship's shape.

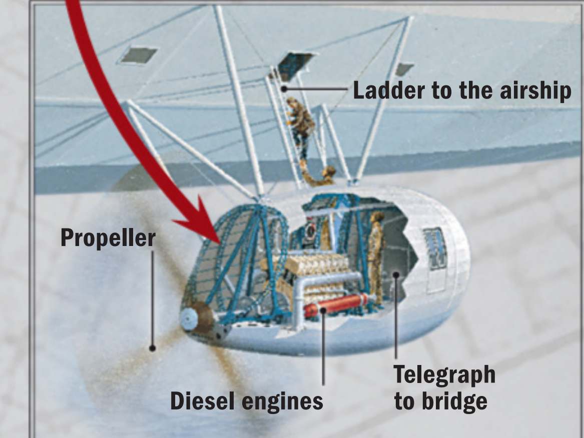
Passenger area: the passenger cabin was located underneath one of the 16 gas bags. The upper deck had 25 rooms, dining room, lounge and promenade.

Passengers mostly from the upper class took exquisite meals with silver cutlery.



Hindenburg

Length	245 metre
Diameter	41.2 metre
Volume	200,000 cubic metres
Top speed	135 km/t
Power	4 x 1,300 horsepower
Flight altitude	200 metres
Weight (loaded)	236 tonnes
Passengers	50
Crew	60



Engines sat on outside

Four gondolas hung in metal braces beneath the ship – two on each side. Each gondola held a light version of the Daimler-Benz 16-cylinder high-speed diesel engine, LOF 6, which weighed 1,976 kilograms. It had two diesel engines, with 50 horsepower driving two 220-volt electricity generators. All engine compartments were constantly monitored by mechanics.

combating unemployment. The roads themselves were probably not the Nazis' invention. The first section reserved for cars, AVUS, Automobil-Verkehrs- und Übungsstraße (Automobile traffic and training road), was opened in 1921 near Berlin. The road was a training track, but in 1932 an actual autobahn opened between Bonn and Cologne. Several more were on the drawing board, but the economic crisis prevented them from being funded. In such dire economic straits, most political parties felt that Germany could not afford any kind of excess. The Nazis were in agreement and their representatives stamped the planned innovations as "luxury roads" for "plutocrats".

As soon as Hitler came to power, however, he changed his mind. To focus efforts, he set up Gesellschaft zur Vorbereitung der ReichsAutobahnen (Association for the Preparation of the Autobahn) to manage its construction. He appointed Todt, an experienced engineer and member of the Nazi party since 1922, as head of the organisation. But although Todt gradually got construction into gear, the promise to employ 600,000 was unfulfilled. The number of road workers never exceeded 125,000.

Reclaimed land would expand the nation

Roadworks were not Hitler's only remedy for unemployment: the Reichsarbeitsdienst (or the RAD, Reich Labour Service), was founded in 1935 and every man between 18 and 25 years was forced to spend six months in it prior to military service. Workers were set to build dikes and drainage canals as well as reclaim land for agricultural use. The idea was to strengthen the economy and make Germany self-sufficient, making it less dependent on others in the event of war or crisis.

"When the programme allotted to the RAD for the next 20 years is fully carried out, Germany will have gained a new province, represented by reclaimed land", wrote one of its leaders, Fritz Edel, in 1937.

The Reich Labour Service's brand was a spade placed over two ears of corn.

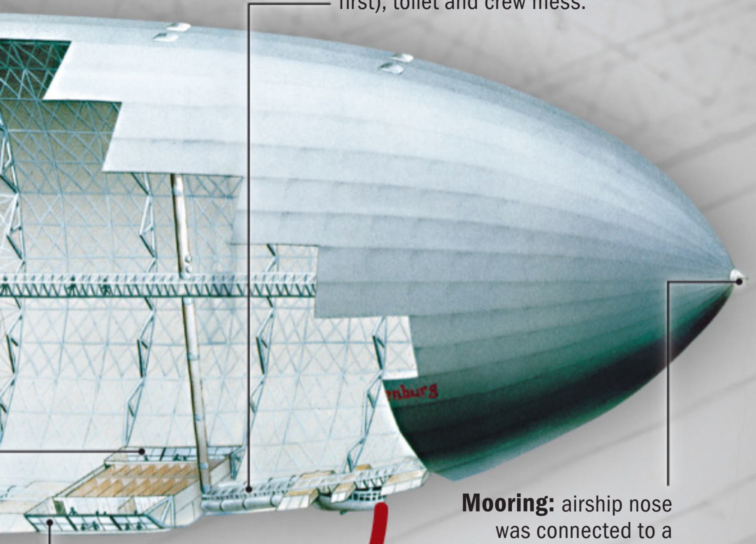
The Nazis claimed that RAD was a success after just three years. The organisation had reclaimed thousands of hectares of marsh and wetlands, bring land into use that had previously been uncultivated.

Today's economists believe, however, that the effect of RAD's work was negligible. On the other hand, the organisation had a benefit impact on the unemployment figures – when young men joined RAD they vanished from the statistics. In addition to massaging the numbers, the move was good business for Germany too, as workers were paid a pittance.

Equally important, however, was the organisation's importance in bringing the country's youth together for future war. "Sons of miners, civil servants, professors and farmers work together, shoulder to shoulder, and thus learn the practical significance of the words Nation and Socialism", wrote Edel pompously.

The Nazis saw the Germans as a unit, bound together in a common understanding and fate, which was developed through ties to the party. Hitler had already banned all

The 1937 disaster in New York signalled the end of the airship era.



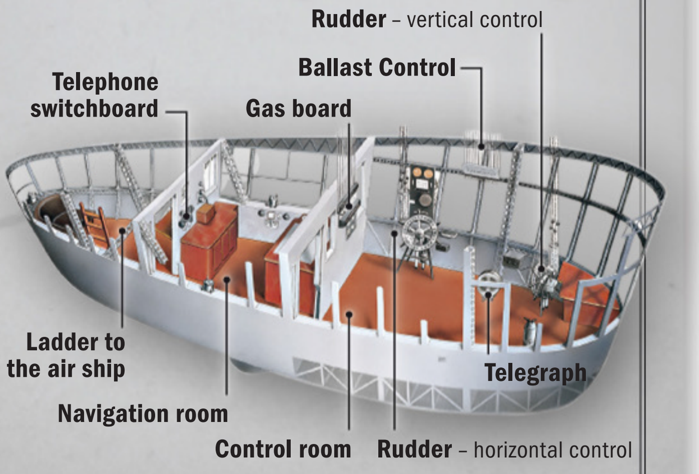
Service area: the lower deck offered smoking room, bar, bath (aviation's first), toilet and crew mess.

Mooring: airship nose was connected to a mooring tower using several strong ropes.

Viewing Area: passengers enjoyed the view from the cabin's downward-facing windows.

Captain gave orders via the ship's telegraph

The captain controlled the ship from the bridge. He gave orders to the mechanics in the four engine compartments via the ship's telegraph. For the ship to rise, ballast was released from the ballast water tank. To reduce height, hydrogen was released from the valves at the top of the vessel. Gas bag contents were monitored on a blackboard.



political parties other than the Nazi party by July 1933. The Nazis also abolished all non-Nazi associations – the scouts movement, sports clubs, youth hostel associations, sports and hobby clubs were all replaced with Nazi alternatives.

A regimentation process – "Gleichschaltung" in German, which means bringing everyone in line – did not mean that all Germans were equal. From 1934 there were special laws for Jews who lost their citizenship rights and access to the same jobs and positions as non-Jewish Germans. Women found themselves in less prominent roles too. Immediately after the Nazi takeover, women were ousted from all important positions in society. From 1934 married women doctors and officials were sent home from work, and from June 1936, they could no longer work as judges or prosecutors.

Her true calling was her family. "Woman is entrusted in the life of the nation with a great task, the care of man, soul, body, and mind", stated Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, head of the National Socialist Women's League.

To ensure women filled their new roles, the Nazis offered state loans to young couples who married if the woman withdrew from the labour market. The loan was written off by 25 percent for each child, making a family debt-free after their fourth child. To further boost the birth rates, the regime distributed medals to women who gave birth to many children. The so-called Cross of Honour of the German Mother was awarded every year on the birthday of Klara Hitler, the Führer's mother, on 12th August. Women who gave birth to eight children or more received a gold version.

100,000
more couples were married in 1933 compared to 1932. The increase was primarily due to the Nazis' offer of a 1,000 Reichsmark loan for newlyweds.

A fringe benefit – albeit an important one – of sending women home to bear children was to remove a large portion of the population from the unemployment statistics, something the Nazis were well aware of. The results were not long in manifesting – during 1934, unemployment dropped below three million, and the following year fewer than two million people were out of work.

At the same time life became better for ordinary Germans. The Nazis introduced child allowance, increased pensions and ensured that workers could take a holiday: 12 days was guaranteed by the regime against the previous maximum of one week. These initiatives helped to increase satisfaction and further speed up production.

HOLIDAY TRIP WITH ADDED SPY

The Nazis didn't simply provide people with better living conditions – the party also tried to create a German way of life that included relaxation and time off. The KdF – Kraft durch Freude, or "Strength through Joy" – organisation was created for this purpose. In its heyday, the KdF had 30 million members and 4,000 employees, organising hikes, theatre trips, ski holidays in the Italian mountains, sunshine breaks and cruises – all at affordable prices. The organisation even

Deutſches Reich
Arbeitsbuch
Eintragungen der Arbeitgeber
bei dem Eintritt in das Arbeitsverhältnis
bei dem Austritt aus dem Arbeitsverhältnis
8. April 1918.
GUSTAV HEYDE G.M.B.H.
DRESDEN

Employment was recorded in a personal workbook with the Nazi logo.

Tank manufacture gave work to thousands. Nazi Germany produced over 25,000 tanks.

Longer holidays and higher wages supported Nazi building projects in Germany.

went so far as to add in special trains allowing the rural population to embrace town and city culture.

For many workers this opened up a whole new world. "This is the first time anyone has cared about us at all", was a frequently heard remark. The success was achieved on the basis that the Nazis had abolished both unions and leisure clubs, so the KdF was a worker's only opportunity for diversion. Holiday camps were also simultaneously a propaganda tool. The authorities ensured that people met up to raise the flag and to listen to speeches. In addition, the party apparatus placed a spies among ordinary travellers who noted if anyone spoke critically about the regime.

The Germans would never enjoy the KdF's most prestigious project: the luxury hotel Prora on the island of Rügen in the Baltic Sea. The construction of the hotel ended abruptly when war broke out.

A similar fate befell another KdF project – the offer of a car for all Germans. Hitler, who was fascinated by cars, called on automotive engineer Ferdinand Porsche to design a vehicle for ordinary people immediately after taking power. The car should have room for a five-person family and shouldn't cost any more than 990 Reichsmark, according to Hitler's specifications. The result was the Volkswagen or "KdF-Wagen", which Porsche would introduce in the spring of 1937. More than 330,000 families booked and paid for their car. None received the vehicle however, because when the cars were ready, war broke out and the assembly lines were instead filled with tanks and military vehicles.

The future was airborne

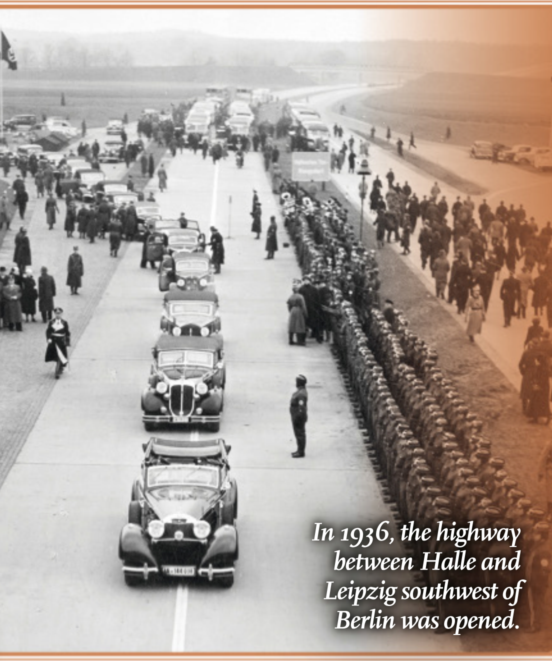
The Nazis also planned to speed up air development. Airships had flown since the mid-1800s, but became really popular in 1928 when the 236-metre Graf Zeppelin crossed the Atlantic with 40 crew members and 20 passengers. The trip from Friedrichshafen in Germany to Lakehurst in New Jersey lasted a little over four days, while the zeppelin made the trip home in just three days – half the time it took contemporary passenger ships to cross the Atlantic.

Passengers could enjoy the same comfort as found on ocean-going steamers, staying in small but luxurious cabins.

In the beginning the Nazis' interest in zeppelins was limited. "No, gentlemen, I will never sit in an airship", declared Hitler. Joseph Goebbels, however, was thrilled. The propaganda minister's trained eye immediately saw their possibilities, whose image of speed, streamlined efficiency and adventure perfectly suited Nazi self-perception.

On 1st May, 1933, just three months after the Nazi takeover, Goebbels ordered the Graf Zeppelin to fly over Berlin on the occasion of the celebration of Tag der Arbeit, the Nazi equivalent of the May bank holiday. Soon a new airship, the Hindenburg, was ready. Hindenburg caught the eye at both the party day in Nuremberg and the Olympics in Berlin in 1936. When boxer Max Schmeling defeated the black American Joe Louis in New York the same year,

Three girls on holiday jumped into a wagon for the photographer.



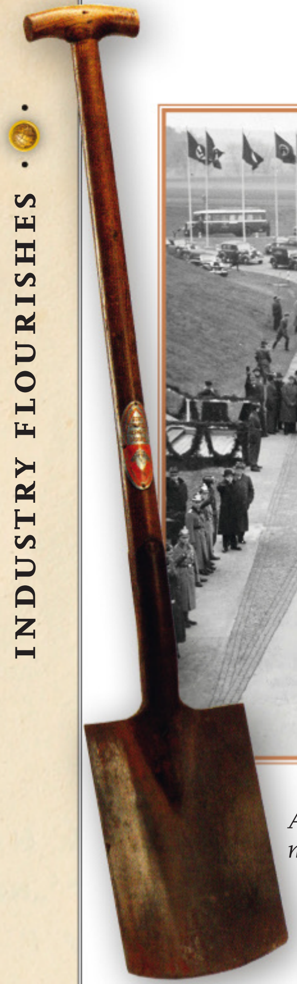
In 1936, the highway between Halle and Leipzig southwest of Berlin was opened.

Roads were tank-ready

Highway construction removed young men from unemployment figures and streamlined German roads, so the infrastructure was ready for war.

Roads designed for motor vehicles already existed in Germany prior to the Nazis. But Hitler saw potential in expanding the network and so gave construction a top priority. In addition to providing work for many, the highways – along with an expanded rail network – allowed efficient transportation for the military.

At first construction was slow, and only 108 kilometres of highway were completed in the first 12 months. But over the following four years labourers, many of whom were conscripted young people between 18 and 25 years, completed an extensive road network. The new highways stretched over nearly 3,000 kilometres. Hitler's highways still play an important role in Germany's transport system today.



A spade remained the most important tool; machines were only used occasionally.

Goebbels made sure that Schmeling came home on the Hindenburg.

By the end of 1936, the airship had crossed the Atlantic 34 times with a total of 3,500 passengers and 29 tonnes of cargo. But disaster struck on 6th May, 1937 when a spark inside the vessel ignited 200,000 cubic metres of hydrogen in New York. 36 people died, marking the end of the airship era.

STATE BANKRUPTCY DREW NEARER

Even as the airship industry went under, the military industry accelerated in turn. Hitler had never concealed the fact that he would not comply with the restrictions imposed on the German military by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. In 1933, the army expanded from the allowed 100,000 men to 300,000. Although the Treaty of Versailles prohibited the Germans from having an air force, Hitler secretly started producing bombers and fighter planes, as well as building up his naval fleet. In 1939, Hitler was ready with an ambitious fleet plan called Z, which in 1945 would give Germany four aircraft carriers and ten battleships.

In 1939, Hitler ran into a problem, however: lack of money. Rearmament was done with borrowed money through so-called Mefo bills. Mefo was an abbreviation for the Metallurgical Research Company, but in reality, it was a fake company whose sole function was to convey debt securities. The debt securities were printed by arms manufacturers, and the intention was that the state would pay the bills as soon as Germany started making money on ordinary production.

The figures were full of holes. Economic growth, which had provided funds for child allowances, longer holidays and higher pensions was based on figures not backed up by the numbers. Germany's almost non-existent unemployment was an illusion created by, among other things, moving Jews and women out of the statistics and calling up labour forces.

Since neither purchasing power nor production matched the numbers, warning lights began flashing at the National Bank. In November 1938, Hitler announced that two billion Reichsmark had gone missing from the treasury and that bankruptcy was a possibility. In January 1939 the message was that national bankruptcy was just around the corner. The Nazis had previously tried to remedy the situation by squeezing money out of Jews by imposing an escape tax if they wanted to leave the country. And in 1937 they had forced Jews who remained in Germany to buy government bonds if they had assets exceeding 5,000 Reichsmark. The tactic brought in eight billion Reichsmark, but it still wasn't enough.

In 1939 the catastrophic lack of money might be revealed at any time, and Hitler saw only one option: he needed to mobilise more resources and create new opportunities. The potential lay to the east, where enterprising Germans with a Nazi ideology believed they were entitled to unlimited Lebensraum (living space). And on 1st September, 1939 Hitler's forces went over the border into Poland.

1891-1942

NAME **FRITZ TODT**

TITLE ENGINEER

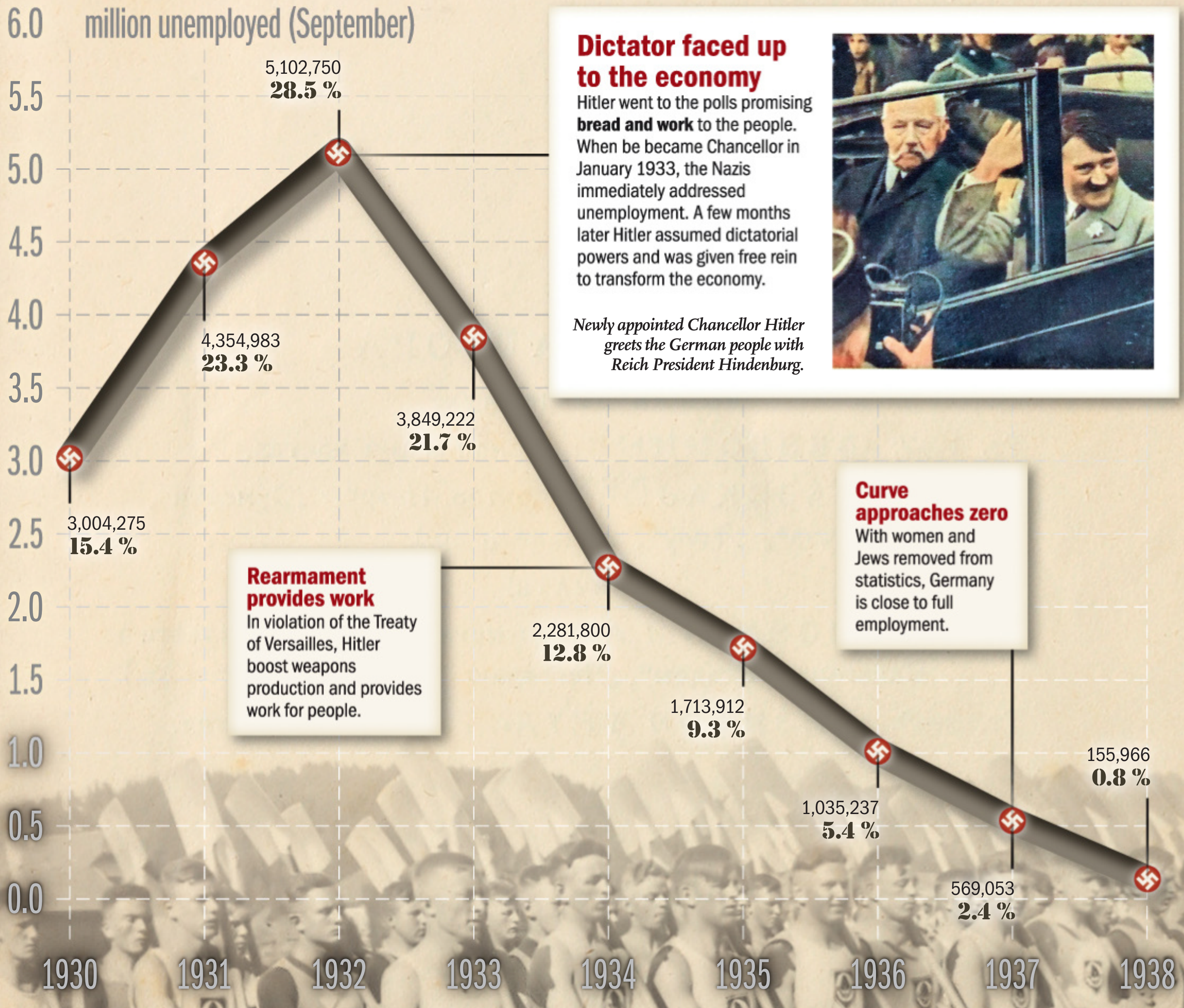
Nazi built to success

Ardent Nazi Fritz Todt was an engineer specialising in road construction. This combination earned him the position as head of Hitler's prestigious highway construction in 1933. Five years later, Todt had responsibility for an organisation that bore his name. Organisation Todt delivered all kinds of construction projects in the Third Reich before and during the war – including the construction of the Atlantic Wall.

- **Rebuilt weapons factories.**
- **Died in a plane crash in 1942.**

Hitler broke the cycle

Shortly after Hitler came to power in January 1933, Germany's record unemployment began to fall. Two years later, in 1935, unemployment had been halved. The decrease was largely due to infrastructure projects, but also because the international economy started to grow during the 1930s.



Dictator faced up to the economy

Hitler went to the polls promising **bread and work** to the people. When be became Chancellor in January 1933, the Nazis immediately addressed unemployment. A few months later Hitler assumed dictatorial powers and was given free rein to transform the economy.

Newly appointed Chancellor Hitler greets the German people with Reich President Hindenburg.

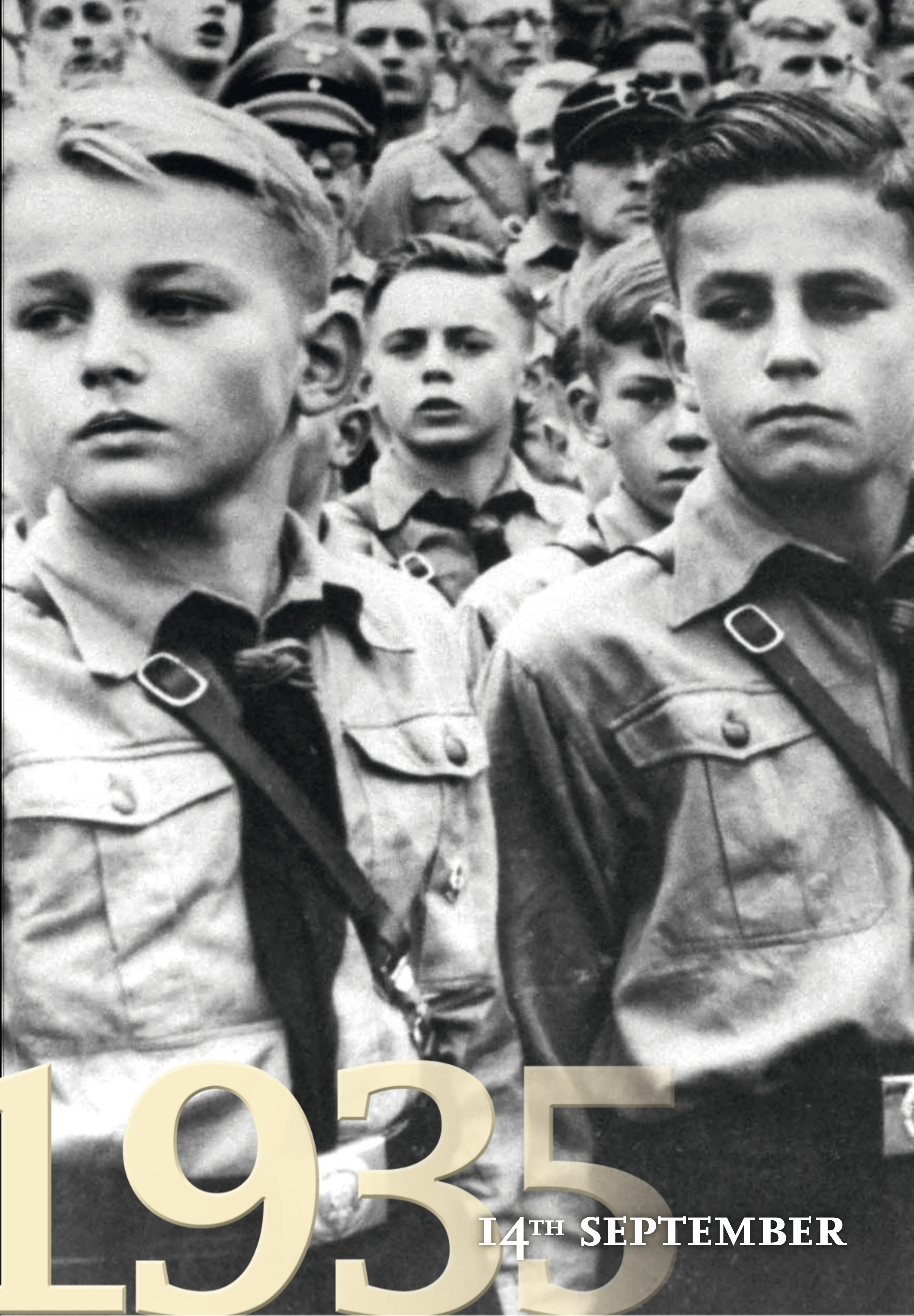
Rearmament provides work

In violation of the Treaty of Versailles, Hitler boost weapons production and provides work for people.

Curve approaches zero

With women and Jews removed from statistics, Germany is close to full employment.

Workers paraded armed with spades – good training for life as soldiers.



1935

14TH SEPTEMBER

Parades and marches prepared millions of boys from 10 years of age to become soldiers.

GERMAN YOUTH ARMY

HITLER YOUTH ARE TRAINED FOR DEATH

Hitler thinks that Germany's youth should be tough as leather and hard as Krupp steel. The Führer forces all German boys into the Hitler Youth, where millions of children are brainwashed and trained to sacrifice for the fatherland on the battlefield.

Germany, 1935

THE STAGE IS SET

After World War I, the German people – in particular the young – are disillusioned. Hitler's newly formed Nazi party seizes the opportunity and creates a youth group that will restore the country's pride through discipline and targeted teaching. Boys flock to the Hitler Youth, but the party has a plan for its association.

The giant stadium in Nuremberg echoed with the cries of 54,000 boys and girls. All gazed excitedly up at the stage when the head of the Hitler Youth, Baldur von Schirach, emerged with the Reich's leader, Adolf Hitler.

After a brief introduction from von Schirach, the cheers gradually faded to allow the Führer to speak:

"You are now lining up for this roll call for the third time; more than 54,000 representatives... which grows from year to year", Hitler began before describing his vision. "The German youth of the future must be slender and supple, swift as greyhounds, as tough as leather, and hard as Krupp steel".

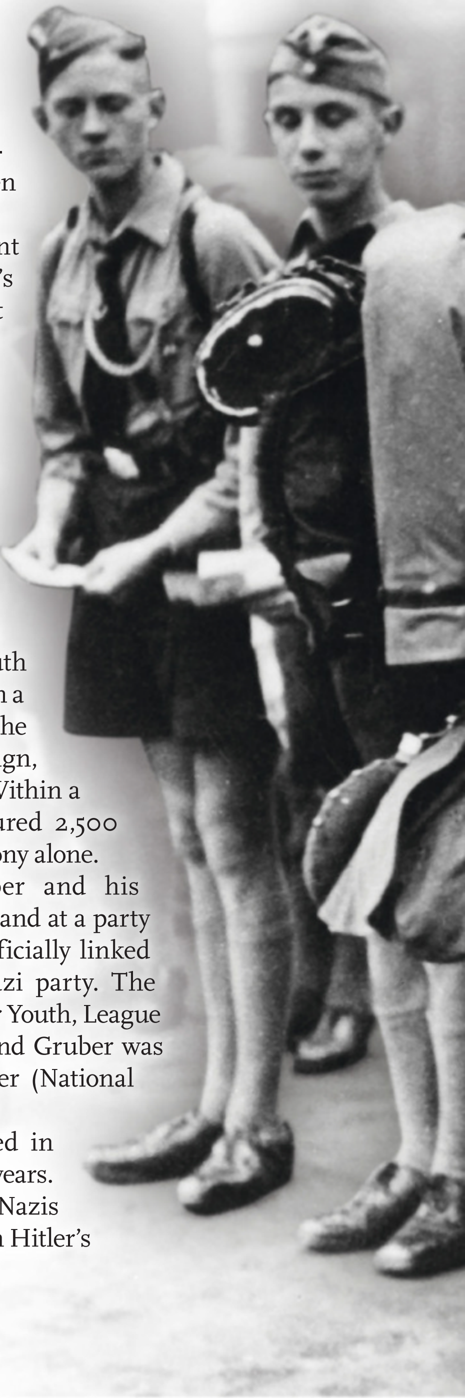
The crowd burst into cheers again, forcing Hitler to pause. Eventually, he ended his speech with the words: "You are the nation's future: the future of the German Reich!"

The entire assembly stood up straight, puffing out their chests in their uniform. When Hitler descended from the pulpit, a wave of enthusiasm washed over him. With a smile, the Führer moved along the rows of boys in brown shirts and shorts and girls in summer dresses, all stretching their necks to get a glimpse of their leader, proud to be among the chosen.

HITLER PAID TRIBUTE TO THE YOUNG

During September 1935, boys and girls had travelled to Nuremberg from all over Germany. Many had taken the train or been transported in lorries, but the most committed had marched all the way. Every year up to party day the youth movement organised so called Hitler marches. Some walked hundreds of kilometres across Germany from their home town, bearing the local association's pennant.

This commitment was characteristic of the members of the Hitler Youth, which after the Nazi takeover in 1933 grew into a mass movement.



The organisation came from modest beginnings, formed 13 years earlier in 1922 by young law student Kurt Paul Gruber and a small group of boys aged 15-16 in his home town of Plauen in Saxony.

Gruber was an ardent Nazi, fascinated by Hitler's promises of a Germany built by youth and carried by the community. The year before Hitler had taken power in the newly established Nazi party, and the leader rarely missed an opportunity to talk about how important youth was.

Gruber subsequently put all his energy into giving the Nazi party a strong youth movement. With money from a local clothing manufacturer he began a recruitment campaign, which was a great success. Within a few months, Gruber procured 2,500 members in the state of Saxony alone.

Hitler soon took Gruber and his association under his wing, and at a party meeting in July 1926 he officially linked the organisation to the Nazi party. The movement was named Hitler Youth, League of German Worker Youth and Gruber was the first Reichsjugendführer (National Youth Leader).

The organisation operated in relative obscurity in its early years. From time to time, young Nazis could be seen marching with Hitler's

NAME **BALDUR VON SCHIRACH**

TITLE REICHSJUGENDFÜHRER

1907-1974

Youth leader was steely Nazi

Baldur von Schirach's older brother Karl committed suicide in grief over the defeat in World War I and the Treaty of Versailles' tough sanctions against Germany. The tragedy sent von Schirach into the arms of the Nazis, where he became leader of the Hitler Youth.

After the war, he was give a 20 years prison term – not for his leadership role in the Hitler Youth, but for crimes committed during his time as Gauleiter of Vienna.

- **Wrote books and poetry.**
- **Retreated to southern Germany.**

In the spirit of being a soldier the boys experience life in the field – here cooking breakfast.

paramilitary SA corps, while the boys handed out Nazi pamphlets for the party. Occasionally they got into fights with political opponents on the far left, a primitive test of strength that was popular with both camps.

Killed Nazi was martyred

On 24th January, 1932 a tragic incident thrust the young Nazis into the public eye. On a cold Sunday Herbert Norkus, a 15-year-old Hitler Youth from Berlin, was stabbed to death by a communist gang. Norkus was given a hero's funeral with Joseph Goebbels – Hitler's propaganda chief – providing a speech, and the soon the boy had become a martyr for the youth movement.

Norkus' death also provided an opportunity for Baldur von Schirach. Von Schirach, a young man of noble background, had heard Hitler speak in 1925 and was convinced of Nazism's superiority. Just three months prior to Norkus' death in October 1931, von Schirach had displaced Gruber and become Reichsjugendführer. He needed a propaganda victory to cement his position and boost support for the youth

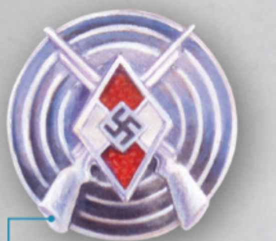
The boys often trained on military courses.

The children got used to being away from home when the corps, for example, went to party days in Nuremberg.

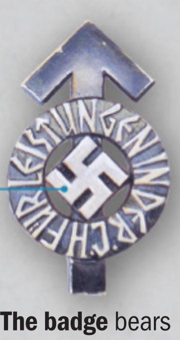
Junior soldiers carried weapons

Putting boys in uniform educated young Nazis for a life as soldiers. Hitler Youth members also learned drill skills and how to handle weapons.

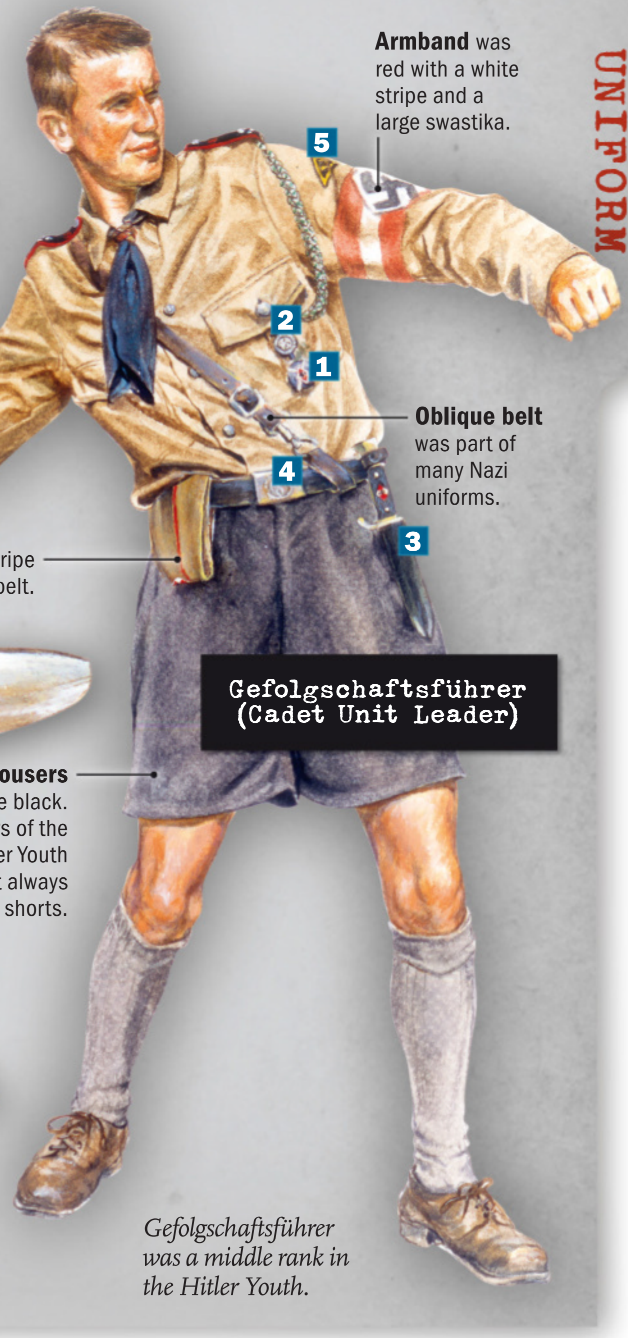
Like the SS, the Hitler Youth was marked by rituals and symbols to build a group spirit. Members should feel they'd been specially chosen.



1 Weapons badge was given after weapons training.



2 The badge bears the inscription "For services in HJ".



The club looked like a hand grenade and was designed to be thrown during training.

Armband was red with a white stripe and a large swastika.

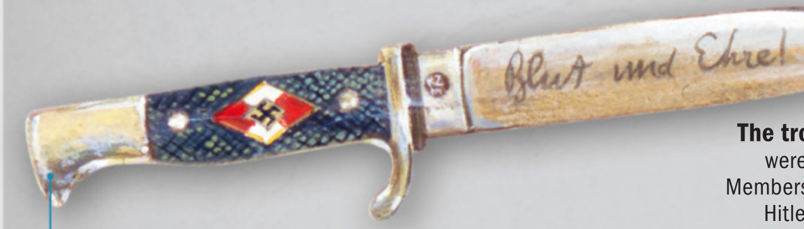
Oblique belt was part of many Nazi uniforms.

The hat with a red stripe could be worn on the belt.

The trousers were black. Members of the Hitler Youth almost always wore shorts.

Gefolgschaftsführer (Cadet Unit Leader)

Gefolgschaftsführer was a middle rank in the Hitler Youth.



3 The dagger bore the Hitler motto: Blut und Ehre (Blood and Honour). The dagger was shaped like a bayonet.

Nord Hamburg

5 The triangle showed which local branch the member was attached to.

4 The buckle was decorated with the German eagle above a swastika.

movement, and successfully linked Norkus' death with German heroic ideals and the role that Hitler intended for youth when he gained power in Germany.

"What the Hitler Youth became since January 1932 it owes to a great extent to the sacred symbol of that youthful willingness for sacrifice and heroism called Herbert Norkus", von Schirach stated at Norkus' grave in 1935.

Von Schirach made his pilgrimage to Norkus' grave an annual event and celebrated the young man in songs and poems he wrote himself. For him, Norkus' death was a holy martyrdom – a theme that von Schirach repeatedly drove home to Hitler Youth members.

"The more who die for the movement, the more immortal it becomes", he said in one of his speeches. "The Hitler Youth can face its critics with an historic reply: its own dead".

Von Schirach's sense of melodrama and propaganda was on a par with Hitler and Goebbels and he soon pulled in more members to the rapidly growing movement.

The Reichsjugendführer also made fulsome use of rituals. For example, the swearing-in ceremony – where young boys

"The more who die… the more immortal it becomes"

Baldur von Schirach, Reichsjugendführer, on the effect of martyrdom on the Hitler Youth

swore allegiance to the Führer and Germany on Hitler's birthday (20th April) – was made a national event. Many thousands of Germans sent gifts for his birthday, but the youth gave themselves.

GERMANY WAS INFILTRATED

One of the thousands of young Germans led into the movement was Henry Metelmann. Metelmann was born in Altona in Hamburg and joined the Hitler Youth at the age of 10 in 1933.

After Metelmann started school a few years earlier, his Christian mother had enrolled him in the Protestant youth organisation Jungschar – a traditional scout movement. Hitler's takeover in 1933 saw all youth organisations banned or taken over by the Hitler Youth. Metelmann soon found out what this meant. One day, while the children in his group were waiting to go in to a Jungschar meeting in the parish church, the group was picked up by a Hitler Youth corps and with drums banging, were marched around the city. After that, it became officially subject to the local Hitler Youth group.

The family was not thrilled. But the father's objections that the family could not afford brown shirts, which was part of the uniform, was answered with a package of two hard-wearing brown uniform shirts – a gift from the party.

Metelmann couldn't remember having any particular enthusiasm for the movement, but slowly the schoolboy began to warm to life in the Hitler Youth:

"I thought the uniform was smashing, the dark brown, the black, the swastika and all the shiny leather. Where before we seldom had a decent football to play with, the Hitler Youth provided us with decent sports equipment".

The boys were organised into local groups, which met at least once a week and often on Sundays. The meetings took place in a clubhouse – Heim – that could be anywhere, such as disused factories, an old barn or a cellar under a residential building. Metelmann participated eagerly in the work and among other things, lime-washed the walls of the troops' clubhouse with other boys. Afterwards, the walls were decorated with Nazi flags and posters, guns, steel helmets and especially selected quotes from Hitler's book *Mein Kampf*.

At the meetings, members toed the party line on important ideological topics such as scientific racism, the Nazi party's history and the role of women in society. Afterwards the boys would sing from Hitler's own songbook.

Metelmann was most excited about the summer camps that lasted for two to three weeks, and which only cost his parents a token amount. Throughout his childhood Metelmann had been accustomed to the idea that travel was reserved for wealthy people so he enjoyed the holidays to the full and welcomed the opportunity to go somewhere new every year. The camps were held in different parts of Germany. Metelmann visited an old castle in Thuringia in central Germany and the Baltic coast near the Polish border. The spread of the camps was not a coincidence: children should learn about the fatherland, the country that everyone should be prepared to die for.

"It was largely through the Hitler Youth that I learned how varied and beautiful Germany, my Germany, was, which in turn instilled an unconditional love for my Fatherland, coupled with an almost holy preparedness to defend

Marine-HJ, a naval branch of the Hitler Youth, was formed in 1935.

A girls' main activity was to train for a life as a housewife.

The Hitler Youth exploited Germans' keen interest in flying.

Gun training was considered vital, so even little boys shot at targets.

it... even to the point of laying down my life", Metelmann later wrote in a book.

Officers impressed teenagers

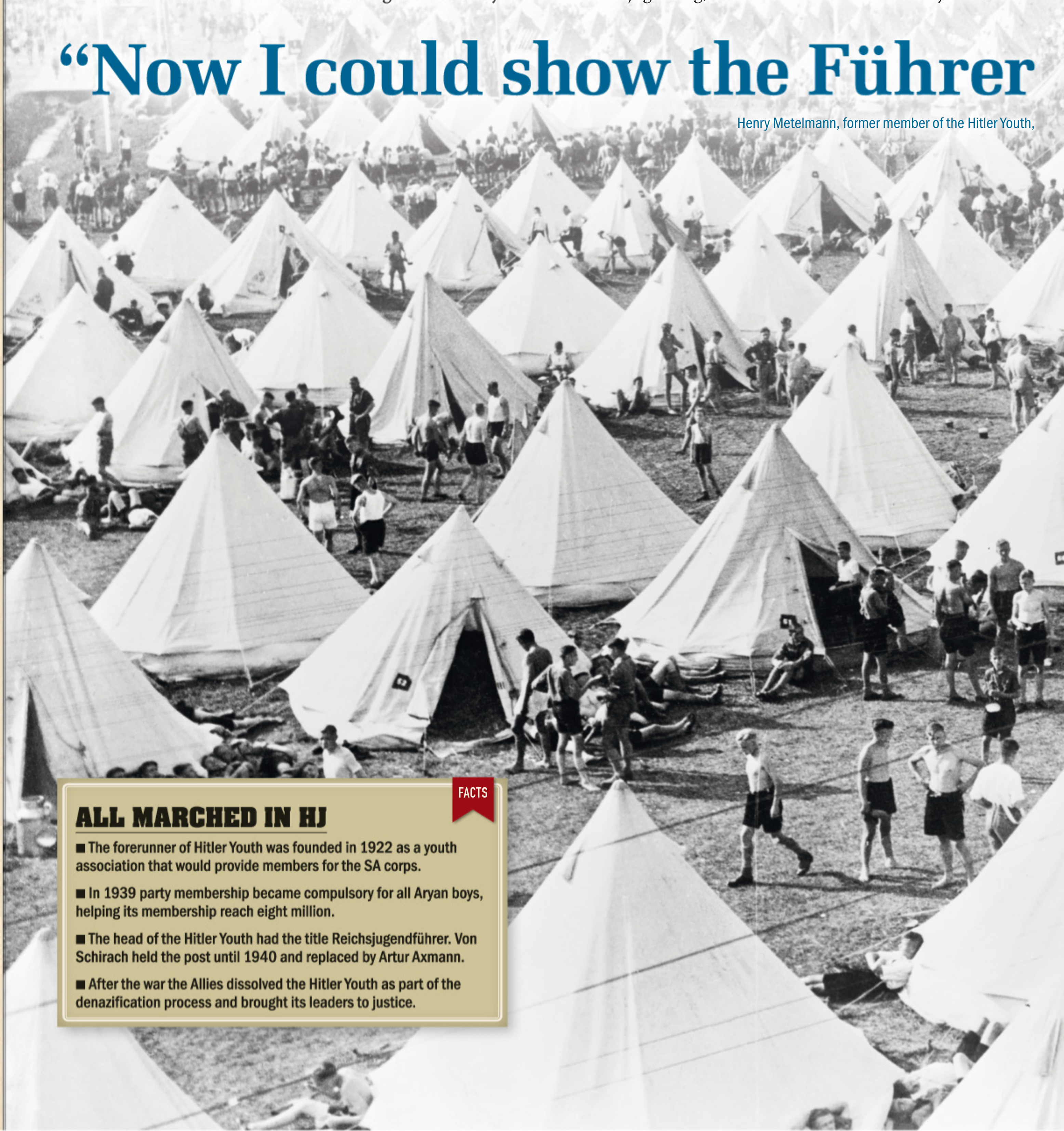
On camping trips boys lived a free life. They played ball, swam and slept in tents. But behind the play the situation was more serious. As the groups were walking, one of the leaders would suddenly shout:

"Attacking planes coming in low from the left" or "hostile machine-gun fire from the right". The boys had to duck and take cover. Between the war games were also activities like training to throw a grenade, shooting, digging and exercises to sneak around in the terrain without being seen. The boys also received training in war theory and history where leaders drew battle lines from famous battles in the sand, and the camps often were visited by uniformed Wehrmacht officers. The men exuded strength and confidence, and the teenagers listened fascinated when soldiers recounted the modern weapons that the Hitler regime had provided Germany with: submarines, armoured vehicles and fighter jets.

As time passed and Germany prepared for war, the Hitler Youth took more and more of children's time at the expense of their schooling. When Metelmann began primary school, he was being taught six days a week. In 1937-38 the Nazi-controlled Ministry of Education, however, introduced a so-called Staatsjugendtag, which meant that on Saturdays the

"Now I could show the Führer

Henry Metelmann, former member of the Hitler Youth,



FACTS

ALL MARCHED IN HJ

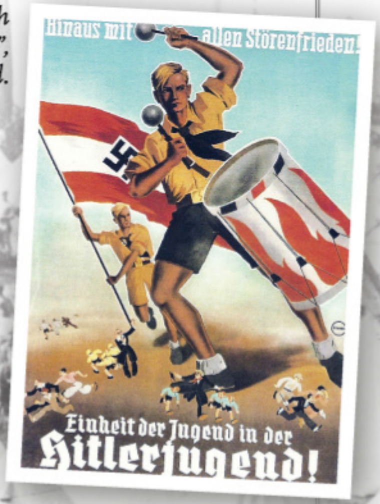
- The forerunner of Hitler Youth was founded in 1922 as a youth association that would provide members for the SA corps.
- In 1939 party membership became compulsory for all Aryan boys, helping its membership reach eight million.
- The head of the Hitler Youth had the title Reichsjugendführer. Von Schirach held the post until 1940 and replaced by Artur Axmann.
- After the war the Allies dissolved the Hitler Youth as part of the denazification process and brought its leaders to justice.

boys focussed completely on the Hitler Youth. With lunch bag and canteen Metelmann and his comrades ran around a field where the boys trained in battle all day.

Participants were divided into blue and red teams, each with a coloured string tied around their upper arm. One group had to defend a particular position – for example, high on a field – while the rest tried to occupy the site. In practice, the goal was to tear the armband from the other team, which was then dead and had to leave the battlefield. Metelmann accepted his fate. He hated fighting but was soon used to the experience. It soon became a natural part of everyday life.

War camps were also better than the alternative. For boys who were not members of the Hitler Youth, Saturdays brought hours of repetitive Nazi party ideology and history – a substitute that certainly scared most.

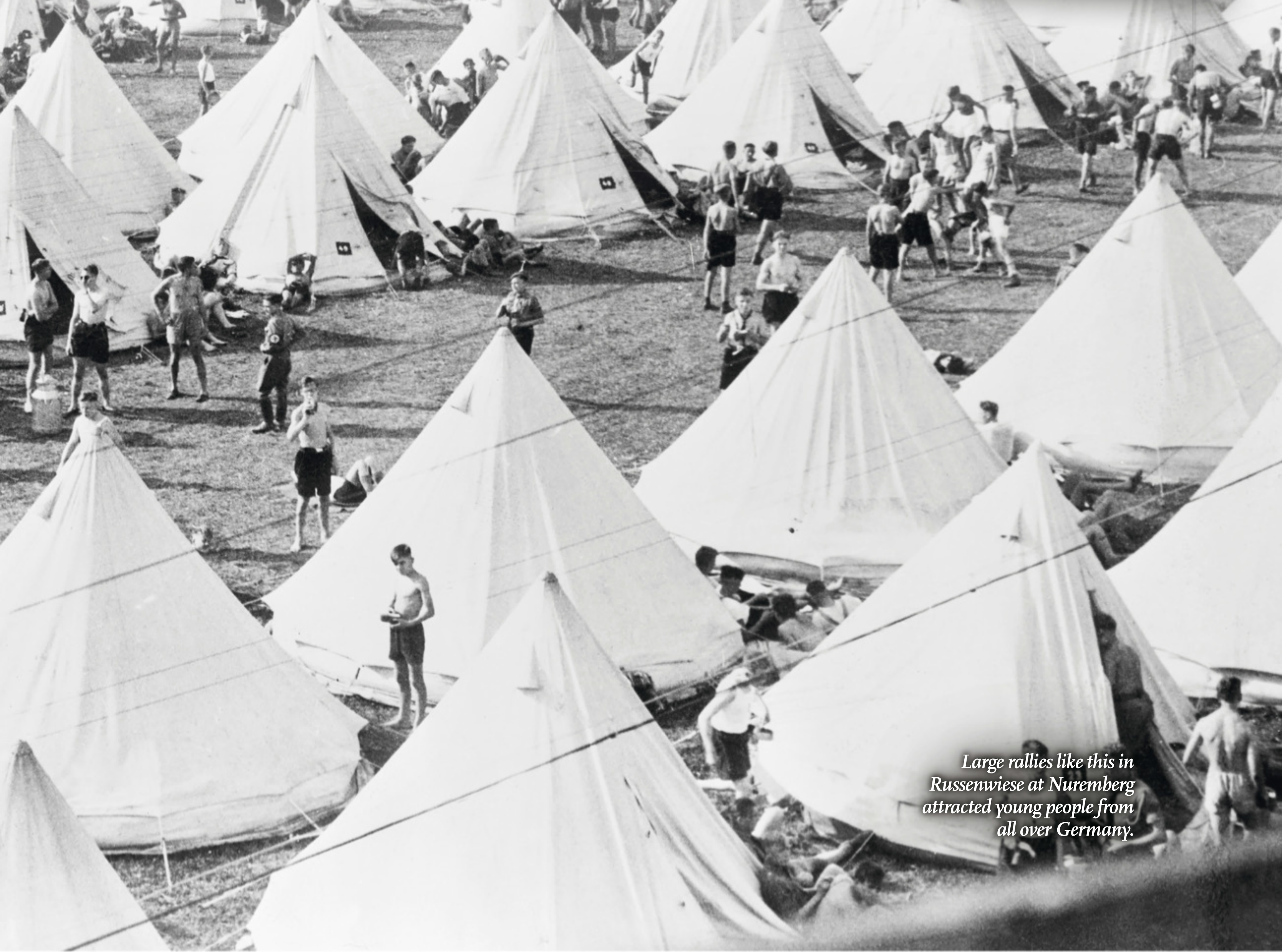
Membership of the Hitler Youth was – in principle – voluntary until 1939, but the pressure to participate was huge. In early 1935, the association had about four million members, but this was not enough for the ambitious von Schirach. In a New Year speech at the turn of 1936, he declared the “Year of the Deutsches Jungvolk”, emphasising that membership was crucial for the nation as a whole.


Hinaus mit allen Störenfrieden!
Einheit der Jugend in der Hitlerjugend!

“All troublemakers out! Youth united in the Hitler Youth”, the text read.

what I was made of”

when he was a tank driver on the Eastern Front



Large rallies like this in Russenwiese at Nuremberg attracted young people from all over Germany.

Under the slogan "Hitler Youth serves the Führer", von Schirach launched a huge propaganda campaign.

Through radio and newspapers, in schools and at sports events, young people were invited to sign up under the swastika. Von Schirach had access to local directories and sent letters to all German parents of children born in 1926. At the same time, schools were reminded that teachers should persuade hesitant students to join the organisation.

Some refused, but resistance came with an extremely high cost. Metelmann remembers how Walter Römer, the only boy in the class who was not a member of the Hitler Youth, was cross-examined by the Nazi regime informant, school biology teacher Karl Sieg. Sieg suggested that Römer's parents could be harbouring anti-Nazi attitudes– something that everyone in Germany knew could mean death.

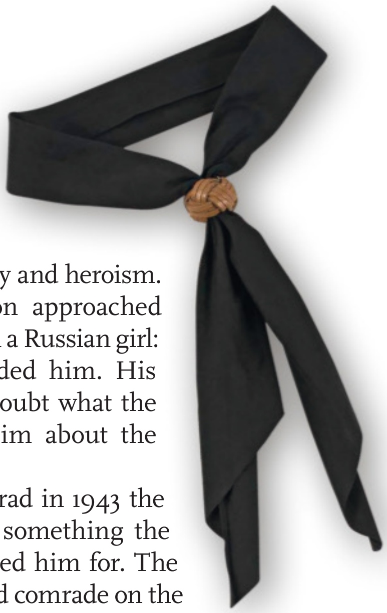
Boys would go to war

When news of the outbreak of war came in September 1939, many in the Hitler Youth were enthusiastic. The boys looked forward to a final showdown with the "Untermenschen" (sub-humans) to the East and fulfilling their role as the master race.

In the army, members normally started with supporting roles like firefighting and mail delivery, but as the war progressed, teenagers were sent directly into the field.

Metelmann received the news of the outbreak of war with joy and the 18 year old volunteered for the army. Later he was sent to the Eastern Front as a tank driver and was proud to show the Führer what he was made of.

On the Eastern Front the Hitler Youth member discovered, however, that war was not just about victory and heroism. When Metelmann's division approached Stalingrad, he fell in love with a Russian girl: when he was sick she tended him. His experience caused him to doubt what the Hitler Youth had taught him about the Russians' racial inferiority.



A black neckerchief with brown leather knot was standard attire.

After the defeat at Stalingrad in 1943 the soldier witnessed brutality, something the Hitler Youth had not prepared him for. The Red Army had left a wounded comrade on the road, and a German officer ordered the man be run over. Later, soldiers shot some teenage girls who were desperately searching for a hiding place.

Metelmann realized that the youth summer camps of singing and good-natured ruckus had not simply been a pleasant pastime. Like many others, he had been trained as cannon fodder for the Führer. Hitler Youth members fought on nearly all fronts, and everywhere their death rates were high.

For those who survived the war, facing the full truth about the Hitler regime was overwhelming. Metelmann, whose last effort in the war was to defend a small town on the Rhine, was captured by Americans in 1945. At first he refused to believe the images from the concentration camps, but slowly he realised that everything he had learned about Nazi Germany was based on a lie. Through his memoirs, Metelmann later tried to make peace with his past.

"The feeling of guilt for what in a collective way I have done to others, especially the people of Russia, lies very heavily on me. Coming to the evening of my life now, I sometimes wonder what it has been, a drama, a tragedy, a crime or a comedy. I cannot be quite sure", he wrote shortly before his death in 2011.

Hans-Jürgen was born in 1926 and was in his first year of school when Hitler came to power.

Black boy wanted to join the Hitler Youth

As the son of an African father and a white mother Hans-Jürgen was one of a few black children who grew up during Nazi racism.

Hans-Jürgen Massaquoi was the result of a rare mixed race in Germany. His father was the son of a Liberian diplomat and his mother Bertha Baetz was German.

Like his classmates Hans-Jürgen was fascinated by Nazi parades and dreamed of becoming a member of the Hitler Youth. But as he was not Aryan, he was excluded and was no longer allowed to go to the playground he'd enjoyed for years. At one point his school headmaster devised a school contest to see if a class could get 100 percent membership of the Hitler Youth. Massaquoi had a chance to fulfil his greatest wish, but was told he could not take part or join the organisation as it did not match up to the Aryan ideal.

Later, his skin colour turned out to be an advantage as he could not become a soldier and so avoided being sent to the front.

After the war, Massaquoi emigrated to the US and became a journalist.

All ages had associations

Nazi ideology was to tap into a child's life from when they were very young. Therefore, party organisations established war training (boys) and home education (girls) for all ages. It was an uncompromising experience, and young people do didn't toe the line were quickly expelled.

Singing was included in the girls' programme and overseen by adult leaders.

Girls learned female pursuits

JUNGMÄDELBUND ("YOUNG GIRLS LEAGUE", GIRLS 10-14 YEARS) took the youngest girls. The children were taught a woman's place: sewing, child care, cooking and ironing.

Girls were not full members initially. After a welcome ceremony the children had to pass tests, including in sport, before they had the right to wear the uniform.

Doctors approved by head shape

DEUTSCHES JUNGVOLK ("GERMAN YOUNGSTERS", BOYS 10-14 YEARS OLD) was designed to prepare boys for the Hitler Youth, but the youngest were exposed to hard training. Among other things, children were sent on long marches and learned to handle firearms.

Membership for young people became mandatory in 1939, but only Aryans were allowed. At 10, boys had to have their pedigree examined and head shape and eye colour checked by a doctor before being accepted.

JUNGVOLK
1942
JAHRBUCH

The yearbook was required reading for "Pimpfe", as members were called.

Hitler Youth members on winter training in Austria.

Teens copied soldiers

HITLER JUGEND ("HITLER YOUTH", BOYS 15-18 YEARS) was the Nazis' main youth organisation. Here the boys were prepared for life as proud German soldiers through hard education, training and lots of field exercises.

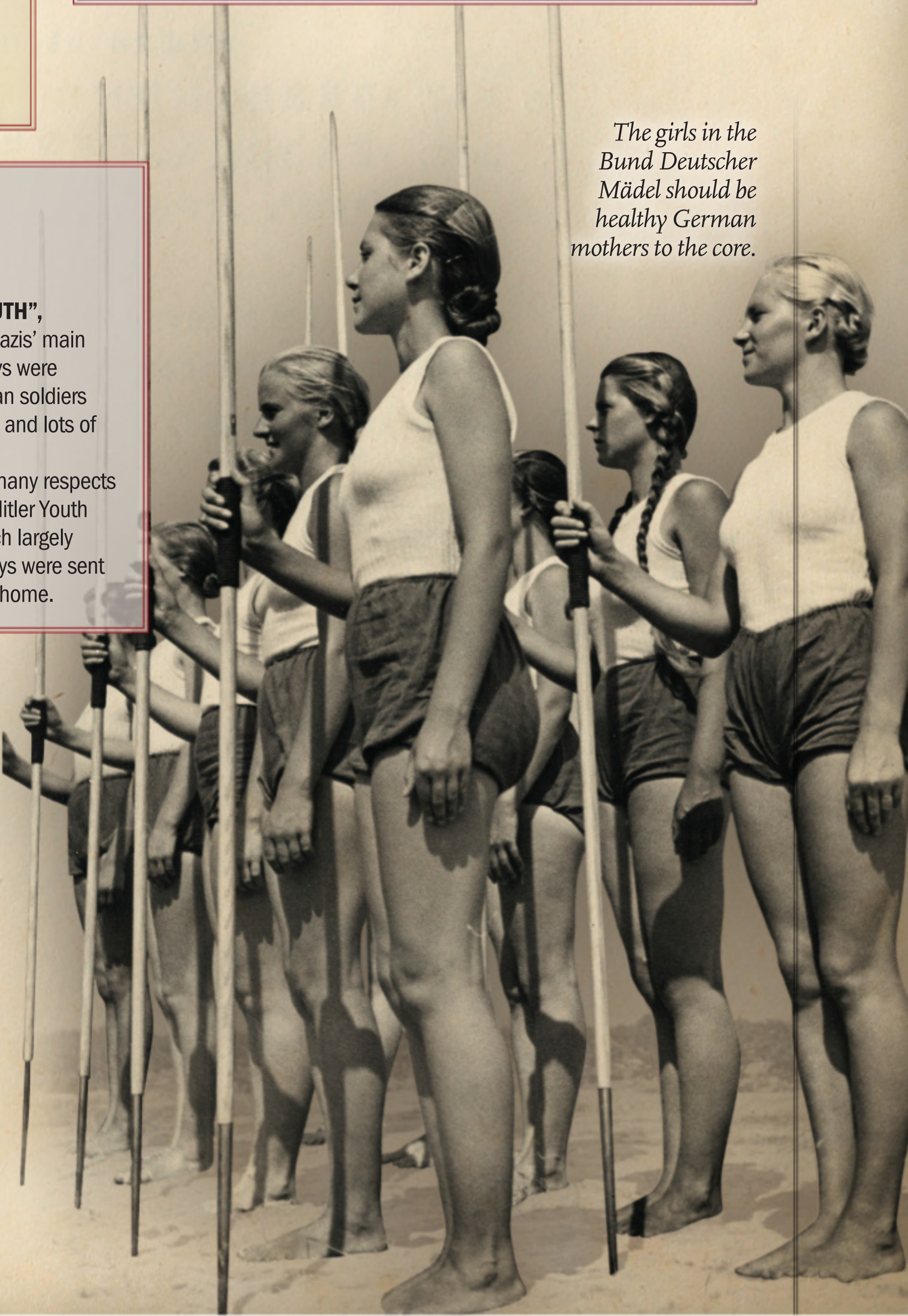
Life in the Hitler Youth was in many respects an imitation of life in the army. Hitler Youth operated a ranking system, which largely corresponded to the SS, and boys were sent on week-long exercises far from home.

Young women worked in agriculture for military service

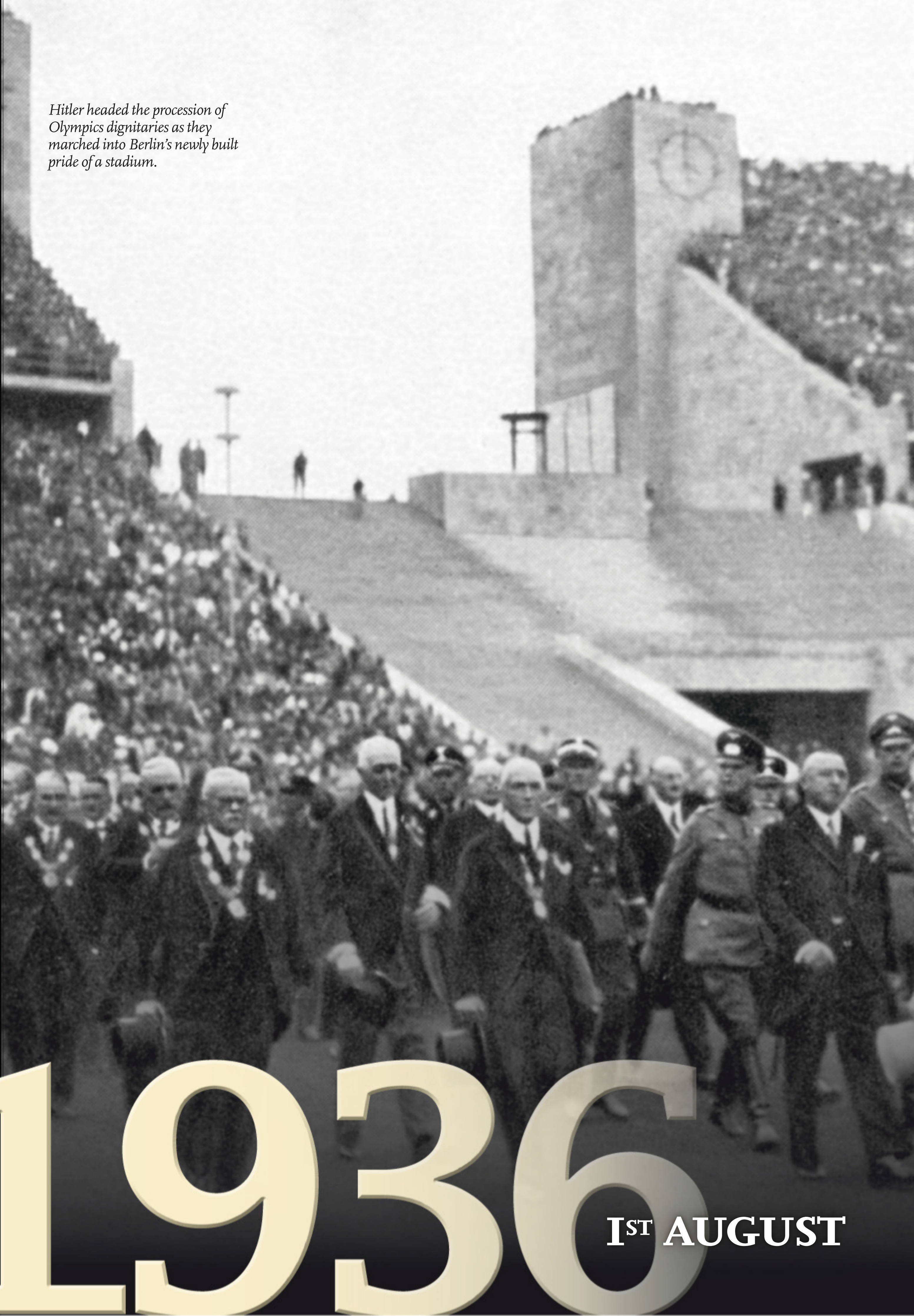
BUND DEUTSCHER MÄDEL ("LEAGUE OF GERMAN GIRLS", GIRLS 15-18 YEARS) would secure Germany a supply of strong and benevolent young women who would have children with German soldiers and raise new generations of superior Aryans.

In addition to daily indoctrination and training in domestic activities, the girls were required to do a year of military service, often on a farm. The idea was that girls from towns and cities should learn how the German nation was rooted in agriculture.

After this members could continue in the organisation Glaube und Schönheit ("Faith and Beauty"), which was open to young women between 17 and 21 years, but where membership was voluntary. In Glaube und Schönheit women were taught – among other things – about family finances.



The girls in the Bund Deutscher Mädel should be healthy German mothers to the core.



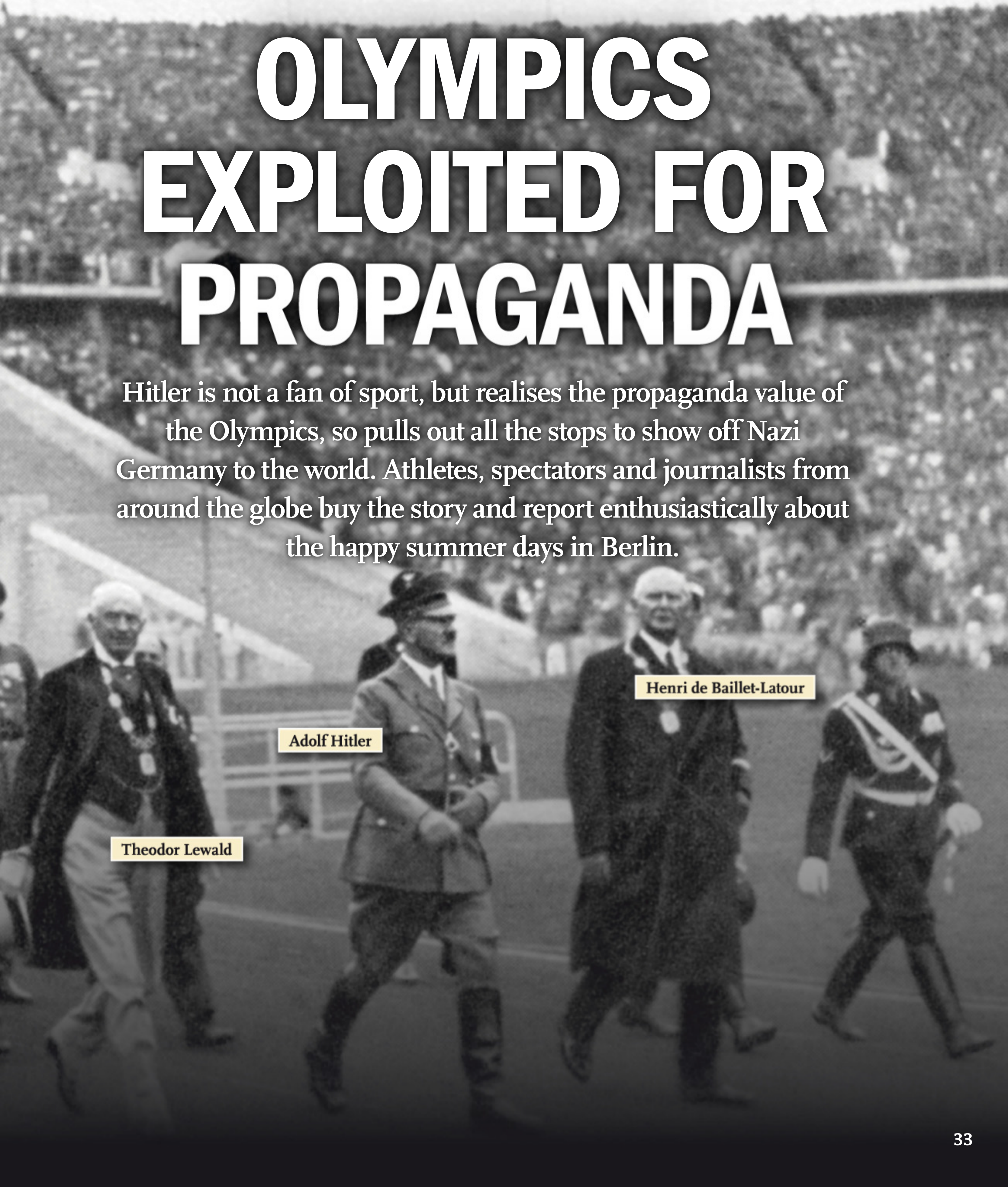
Hitler headed the procession of Olympics dignitaries as they marched into Berlin's newly built pride of a stadium.

1936

1st AUGUST

OLYMPICS EXPLOITED FOR PROPAGANDA

Hitler is not a fan of sport, but realises the propaganda value of the Olympics, so pulls out all the stops to show off Nazi Germany to the world. Athletes, spectators and journalists from around the globe buy the story and report enthusiastically about the happy summer days in Berlin.


Henri de Baillet-Latour
Adolf Hitler
Theodor Lewald

Berlin, 1936

THE STAGE IS SET

Berlin
GERMANY

Hitler's Nazi party controls Germany with an iron fist. Jewish persecutions are part of everyday life and rearmament causes other European countries to fear the Führer's motives. The Olympics in Berlin provides Hitler with an opportunity to paint a rosy picture of Nazi Germany as a peaceful and righteous society.

The opening of the Olympic Games had surpassed all expectations. "They seem likely to accomplish what the rulers of Germany have frankly desired from them, that is, to give the world a new viewpoint from which to regard the Third Reich". So wrote *New York Times* journalist Frederick Birchall of the opening of the Olympics in Berlin on 1st August, 1936.

The spectacle had overwhelmed reporters. Young male and female athletes from many nations and sporting different skin tones marched into the newly built stadium under waving flags and past Hitler's gaze. When the last of 3,956 athletes from a total of 49 nations had come into the stadium, Hitler came to the microphone. Gone was the Führer's usual harsh tone and sharp rhetoric. Now the dictator spoke in a subdued and formal tone:

"I proclaim open the Olympic Games of Berlin, celebrating the Eleventh Olympiad of the modern era", he said as a flock of white doves were released and flew toward the leaden sky.

At the end of the formal opening runner Siegfried Eifrig lit the Olympic flame, and Hitler was presented with an olive branch as a gift from Greece, home to the ancient Games. As he stood between doves and olive branches, no one could have known that the dictator had originally expressed his deepest contempt for the Olympic Games.

BERLIN WAS SCRUBBED CLEAN

Berlin won the bid to host the games in 1931, and Hitler inherited the mantle after taking power in January 1933. But the role of Olympic host didn't appeal to him. He felt that the Games and its ideals of people and noble competition were "an invention of Jews and Freemasons" and "could not be tolerated in a Reich ruled by the National Socialists".

Sport certainly played an important role in Nazi society, and the area had its own minister, SA Colonel Hans von Tschammer und Osten. The purpose of it was preparation for war – or as propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels put it:

"German sport has only one task: to strengthen the character of the German people, imbuing it with the fighting spirit and steadfast camaraderie necessary in the struggle for its existence".

Gradually Hitler developed second thoughts. He knew that much of the world viewed him and the Nazi party with

> **"There will be no discrimination in Berlin against Jews"**
>
> Frederick W Rubien, US Olympic Committee member, 1935

On the way through a rainy Berlin, the Olympic flame was accompanied by an escort of runners.

NAME **JESSE OWENS**

TITLE TOP ATHLETE

1913-1980

Black runner was the Games' star

With four gold medals in the 100 metres, 200 metres, 4 x 100 metres and long jump, American Jesse Owens was the superstar of the Berlin Olympics. Even before his arrival, Owens was a big name, and throughout his stay in Germany he needed a bodyguard, because girls could not leave the handsome black athlete in peace.

Contrary to popular belief, Hitler didn't specifically refuse to shake hands with Owens. On the first day, the dictator shook the hands of every German winner, but organisers asked Hitler to greet everyone or nobody. He chose the latter. Owens was also able to follow his white teammates anywhere in Germany, something he couldn't do back in the US. At a reception at the Waldorf Astoria in New York, Owens wasn't permitted to use the main entrance, but had to arrive via a freight elevator.

- **Was bitter that President Roosevelt never congratulated him.**
- **Ended sports career because of financial problems.**

scepticism. At the Olympics, where the capital would have the world's attention, he could make Germany appear as it really was or – rather – as Hitler wanted the world to perceive it. With great enthusiasm the dictator and his advisers created a backdrop that would show a squeaky-clean, open and peaceful Germany. Before the Games started, an important goal had already been realised when the US Olympic Committee in December 1935 decided not to boycott.

Hitler's Germany was notorious for Jewish persecution – an unpleasant fact that neither the magnificent autobahn-building programme nor an impressive economic recovery could persuade the world to forget. The International Olympic Committee was therefore aware that Jews and non-whites were discriminated against: and not without reason.

Hitler had already excluded Jews from German sports clubs and public swimming pools, prompting many Jewish talents to either give up or continue their careers abroad. The development was of particular concern to the US, who had the largest Olympic team.

"The very foundation of the modern Olympic revival will be undermined if individual countries are allowed to restrict participation by reason of class, creed, or race", stated Avery Brundage, President of the US Olympic Committee.

When Brundage had visited Germany in 1934, the situation had been covered up by Nazi representatives, so he concluded that Jewish athletes were treated fairly, and that a boycott was unnecessary. Sports and politics should be kept separate and American athletes should refrain from interfering in "the present Jew-Nazi altercation" as Brundage described it.

Jewish high jumper was excluded

Things were different in the Third Reich, as the Nazis kept a fine balance between outwardly keeping the façade in place while inwardly continuing to stubbornly exclude Jewish athletes. To avoid foreign criticism, Nazis tried

»

German Dora Ratjen competed in the women's high jump, even though she was a man.

Jewish Gretel Bergmann was Germany's best high jumper, but was not allowed to compete.

Helene Mayer's father was a Jew. Yet she became a symbol of the new Germany.

SPORTS ARENA

Sports stadium to impress the world

When the Nazis came to power in 1933, plans for Berlin's Olympic stadium were already well underway, but Hitler scrapped all the blueprints to erect the monumental Reichssportfeld instead.

Berlin was chosen to host the Olympics in 1916, but World War I got in the way, and the newly-built stadium was never used. In 1931, Berlin was again chosen as the host city, and the German government planned to simply rebuild the existing stadium.

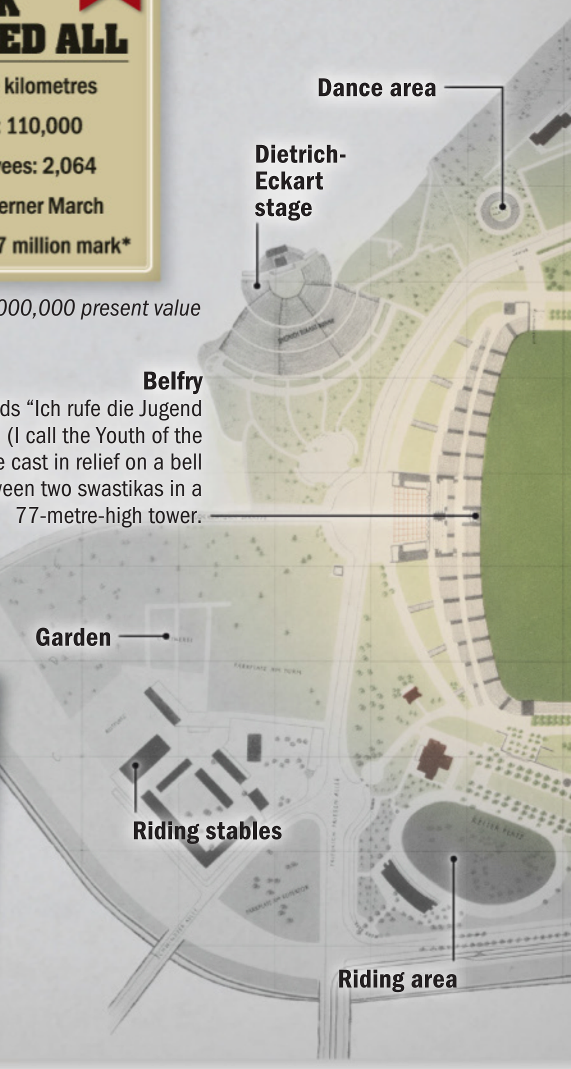
When Hitler came to power in 1933, all plans changed. On an inspection tour of the construction site the Führer realised the potential for a world event like the Olympics. The Nazis had a unique opportunity to give the outside world a new vision of the country. Hitler decided to build a facility that was larger and more impressive than anything the world had seen so far. The result was the huge sports complex Reichssportfeld, which according to Hitler would last for 1,000 years.

FACTS

NEW PARK SURPASSED ALL

- Area: 1.32 square kilometres
- Stadium capacity: 110,000
- Number of employees: 2,064
- Chief Architect: Werner March
- Estimated cost: 27 million mark*

*Approximately £240,000,000 present value



Belfry
The words "Ich rufe die Jugend der Welt" (I call the Youth of the World) were cast in relief on a bell placed between two swastikas in a 77-metre-high tower.

Adolf Hitler
Joseph Goebbels
Hermann Göring
August von Mackensen
Wilhelm Frick
Rudolf Hess

Nazi top brass watched from a specially built balcony for dignitaries.

The stadium "heiled" excitedly as soon as a German competitor performed well.

– among other things – to get Jewish high jumper Gretel Bergmann to attempt to qualify for the German team.

Bergmann, who had settled in England, was brought home by her father in 1934, who had been told by the regime that she had to represent Germany. The authorities had made it clear to her father that the family would be punished, and Bergmann later remarked: "In Germany then a hint was enough. You did what you were told or else".

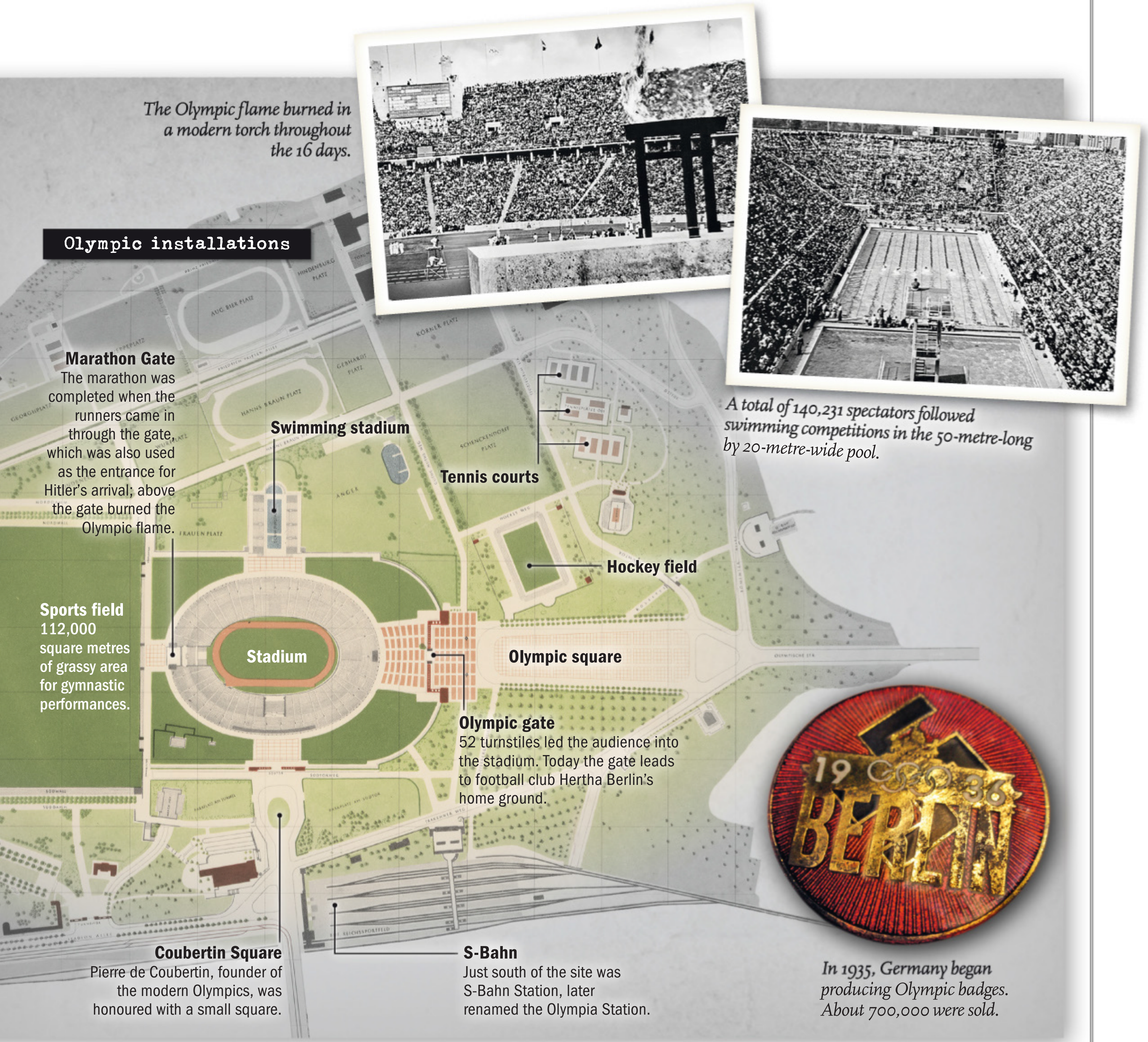
Bergmann returned to Germany, where, with a jump of 1.60 metres she beat the national record. The performance however, was too much for the Nazis. The powers that be struck Bergmann's result from the records and said that she was not good enough to participate in the Games.

Instead of Bergmann, Dora Ratjen took part in the women's high jump and finished in fourth place. It was only later – in 1938 – that Ratjen was discovered to be male. In the meantime, Nazi preparations for the Games saw a superficial change of attitude towards Jewish guests. The anti-Semitic newspaper *Der Stürmer*, which usually appeared on shelves all over Berlin, was temporarily closed and Berliners were warned that "Jewish athletes will be received the same as others". Also signs reading "No Jews or dogs allowed" that hung in parks and public places were hidden until after the Games.

To be sure that all this courtesy was not misconstrued, the authorities added that "the fundamental attitude of the German people towards Judaism remains unchanged".

The Nazis created a picture postcard

Meanwhile, the streets and roads were decorated. Abandoned buildings were rented out cheaply and residents were given strict orders to keep their front gardens weed-free and clear of rubbish. Similarly, local leaders warned that all major streets



Olympic installations

The Olympic flame burned in a modern torch throughout the 16 days.

A total of 140,231 spectators followed swimming competitions in the 50-metre-long by 20-metre-wide pool.

Marathon Gate The marathon was completed when the runners came in through the gate, which was also used as the entrance for Hitler's arrival; above the gate burned the Olympic flame.

Swimming stadium

Tennis courts

Hockey field

Sports field 112,000 square metres of grassy area for gymnastic performances.

Stadium

Olympic square

Olympic gate 52 turnstiles led the audience into the stadium. Today the gate leads to football club Hertha Berlin's home ground.

Coubertin Square Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, was honoured with a small square.

S-Bahn Just south of the site was S-Bahn Station, later renamed the Olympia Station.

In 1935, Germany began producing Olympic badges. About 700,000 were sold.

should remain clean and tidy. Unsavoury people were also removed: prostitutes were arrested, beggars moved on and Romani folk placed in a special gypsy camp. Prisoners were sent to places where they could not be seen while inmates in concentration camps, who had yet to be exterminated, were held indoors instead of working as slave labour in the fields, as they were used to.

The image of this hospitable Germany was accompanied by good conditions for the competitors. At previous Olympic Games athletes had stayed in miserable surroundings – at best, hastily built barracks near the stadium, but typically they were referred to cheap and filthy hotels. Four years earlier, Los Angeles had experimented with offering athletes accommodation in a purpose-built city near the stadium. "The village" as the area was called, contained residential property and services like a post office, police station and a small cinema. The innovation was praised, and in 1936 the Nazis refined the concept near the village of Elstal

> **"The organising ability of the German nation has never been so palpably in evidence"**
>
> *Daily Express*, 1st August, 1936

Although Hitler refused to shake hands with the winners at the Olympic Stadium, he saluted individual gold medal winners, including British rower Jack Beresford. In Berlin Beresford won a medal for the fifth Olympics in a row, a record that stood for 60 years.

outside the city. Wehrmacht soldiers led by Captain Wolfgang Fürstner moved tonnes of sand and mud to level the ground and exterminated all the mosquitoes in the damp area.

Fürstner was perfect for propaganda. In addition to owning an Iron Cross 1st Class for his efforts during World War I, he was also half Jewish. Hitler was keen to show that his Germany did not discriminate by race, but was a meritocracy, so he chose Fürstner to represent the Olympic village.

Hitler was unable to carry off the scam completely, however. In mid-June, after about 370,000 people including the press had admired the village, Fürstner was relegated to second in command. The demotion was allegedly due to the captain's failure to meet the needs of the visitors to the village.

Fürstner put a good face until three days after the end of the Olympics. After he had been awarded the Olympic medal 1st Class and commemorated his successor at a sumptuous banquet, he shot himself. So the propaganda victory was not undermined, the Nazis claimed that Fürstner had died in an accident and buried him with full military honours at the Invalids' Cemetery.

SUCCESS CAME HOME

The Nazi bluff appeared to work, and the Games were a great success. The 16 summer days in Berlin featured several notable accomplishments – among the most memorable was American top athlete Jesse Owens. Owens, who was born into a family of poor farm workers in the southern state of Alabama, was met in Germany with an almost hysterical adulation. The excitement reached new heights on 3rd August, when the American won gold in the 100 metres. Owens ran, "so it looked as if the other runners were walking", one commentator said.

Hitler was less impressed. "The Americans should be ashamed of themselves, letting Negroes win their medals for them", he stated according to Baldur von Schirach. And Albert Speer remembered Hitler stating that "people whose antecedents came from the jungle" had a stronger physique and should be excluded from future Games.

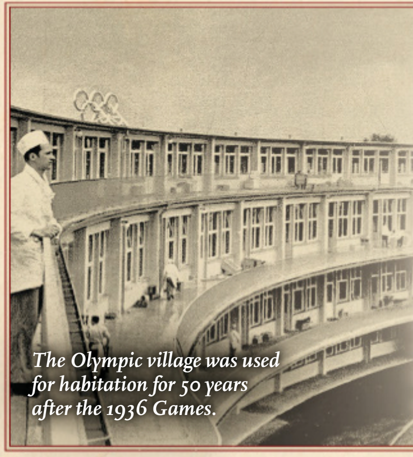
The public did not hear the leader's racist comments, and outwardly Hitler appeared completely humane. Every day he sat along with other Nazi top brass at the stadium and smiled at the winners. The image wasn't even destroyed when the Nazis flexed their military muscle: on 13th August the hosts dished up a military parade at the stadium. To the tones of Wagner, soldiers from all three services goose-stepped across the arena.

Three days later five cannon shots rang from the stadium and the scoreboard proclaimed: "The last shot is fired". Hitler's goal had been achieved – with 16 grand days of propaganda he had seduced the world.

> **"I think it was bad taste to criticise the 'man of the hour' in another country"**
>
> Jesse Owens about Hitler in an interview after returning to the US in the newspaper *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 24th August, 1936

Hitler's Olympics led the way

The Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936 was a magnificent sports event, and several innovations continued in subsequent Games. The war meant that the world had to wait 12 years for the next Olympics which were held in London in 1948 – and Germany was excluded from taking part.



The Olympic village was used for habitation for 50 years after the 1936 Games.

Athletes lived in the village

At the Olympics in 1932 in Los Angeles male athletes stayed in barracks, which were demolished afterwards. In Berlin all competitors lived in real houses and had facilities like a hospital, sauna and swimming pool available to them. The buildings are dilapidated today, but Jesse Owens' room is renovated and remains as it was when he used it.

Committee voted on host city

Prior to 1932 the International Olympic Committee negotiated the host city, but in 1936 the selection was made after a vote by IOC members. Berlin's competitor, Barcelona, received 16 votes to the winner's 43.

The Olympic rings were designed in 1912 by Pierre de Coubertin and were used in 1936.

3,331 runners transported the Olympic flame from Greece to Berlin in 12 days.

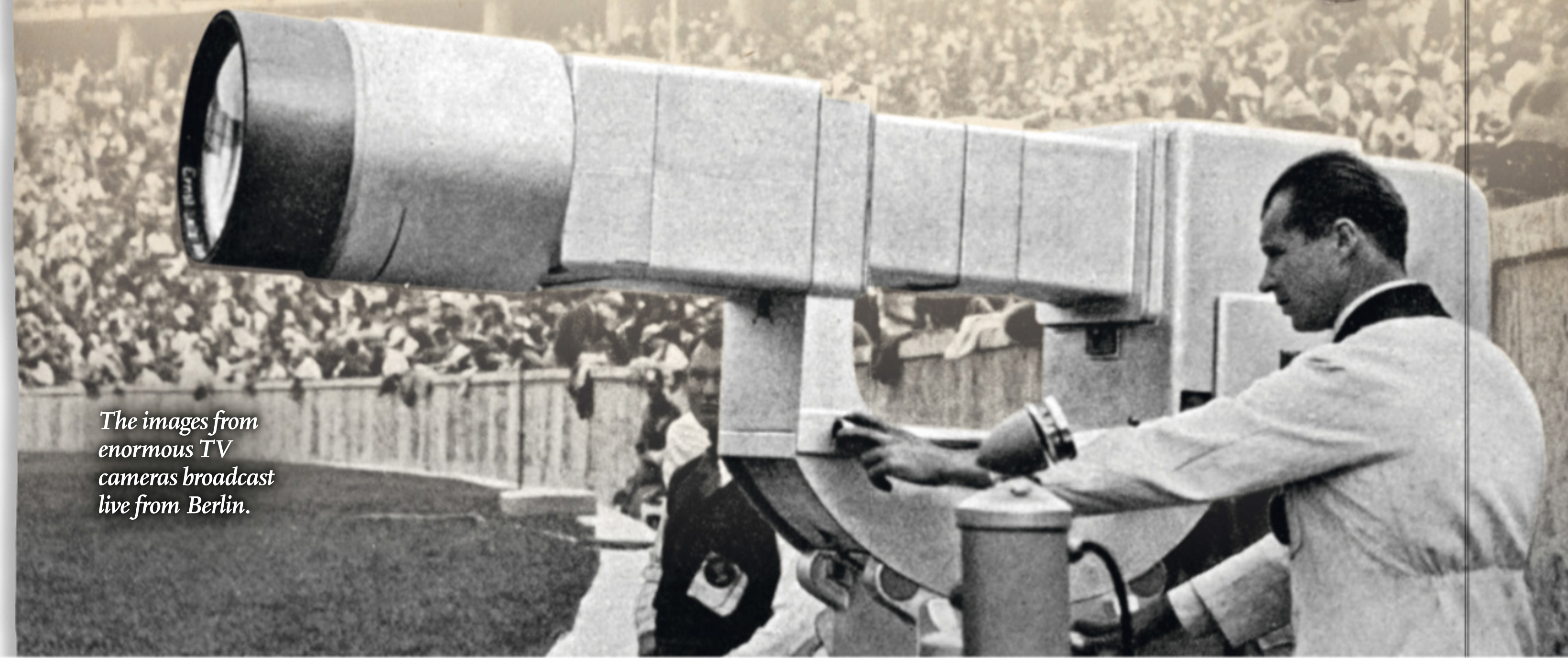
Torch race was a tradition

The Olympic flame was introduced in 1928, but the Nazis had the idea to light the flame on Mount Olympus in Greece and run through Europe with the flame. The idea stuck and the tradition has become a regular feature in the run up to the Olympics.

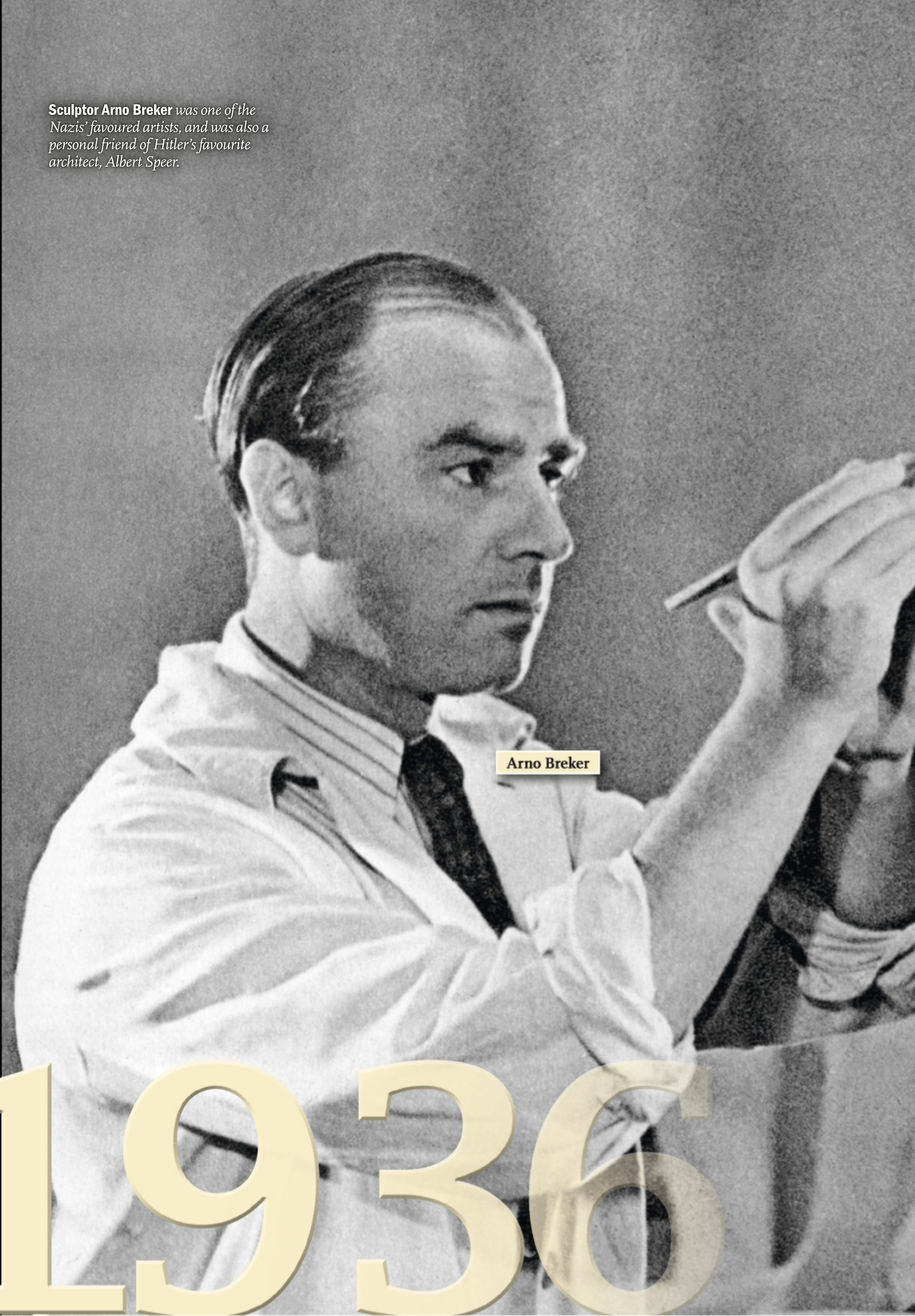
Sports' transmission was a world first

The Olympics in Berlin were the first live television sports event ever. The cameras at the Reichssportsfeld captured disciplines, and direct images were beamed via a transmitter in the suburbs of Witzleben close to the Games. Two special cables connected to the sports radio tower in Berlin. The image quality was slightly rough and unclear, but despite the weak signal TV viewers flocked to the small theatre-like living rooms that the post office had set up in the suburbs of Berlin and Potsdam.

Historians estimate that some 160,000 people watched a total of 72 hours of live television. Among the audience were many of the athletes themselves, as a TV screen had been installed in one of the public buildings in the Olympic village.



The images from enormous TV cameras broadcast live from Berlin.



Sculptor Arno Breker *was one of the Nazis' favoured artists, and was also a personal friend of Hitler's favourite architect, Albert Speer.*

1936

Albert Speer

NAZISM'S IDEALS

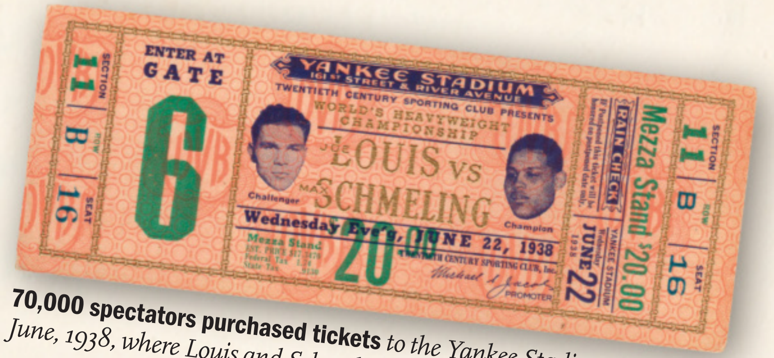
SPORT, ART AND TECHNOLOGY SERVE THE REICH

From 1933-45 artists, engineers and athletes attempt to live up to Nazi ideals. Bombastic buildings must express ultimate Nazi power, sports fixtures show off German superiority and technology ensures all German people can hear Adolf Hitler's voice.

Joe Louis
Max Schmeling

A boxing match in 1936 between the US's Joe Louis and "the white hope" Max Schmeling *ended in victory for the German by knockout in the 12th round. Two years later, Louis – who'd won the World Heavyweight title in the meantime – knocked out Schmeling in the first round.*

Gymnastics was viewed as a sport for women, *who were expected to cultivate graceful rather than powerful and aggressive sports.*



SECTION 11 ROW B SEAT 16

ENTER AT GATE 6

YANKEE STADIUM
161st STREET & RIVER AVENUE
TWENTIETH CENTURY SPORTING CLUB PRESENTS
WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
JOE LOUIS VS MAX SCHMELING
Challenger
Champion
Wednesday Eve'g, JUNE 22, 1938
Mezza Stand
$20.00
TWENTIETH CENTURY SPORTING CLUB, Inc.
Michael J. Jacobs
PROMOTER

RAIN CHECK
YANKEE STADIUM
Wednesday
JUNE 22
1938
Mezza Stand $20.00
SECTION 11 ROW B SEAT 16

70,000 spectators purchased tickets *to the Yankee Stadium on 22nd June, 1938, where Louis and Schmeling met for the World title.*

Athlete Alfred Schwarzmann mimics the German eagle *as he jumps from the bar in the Berlin Olympics in 1936.*

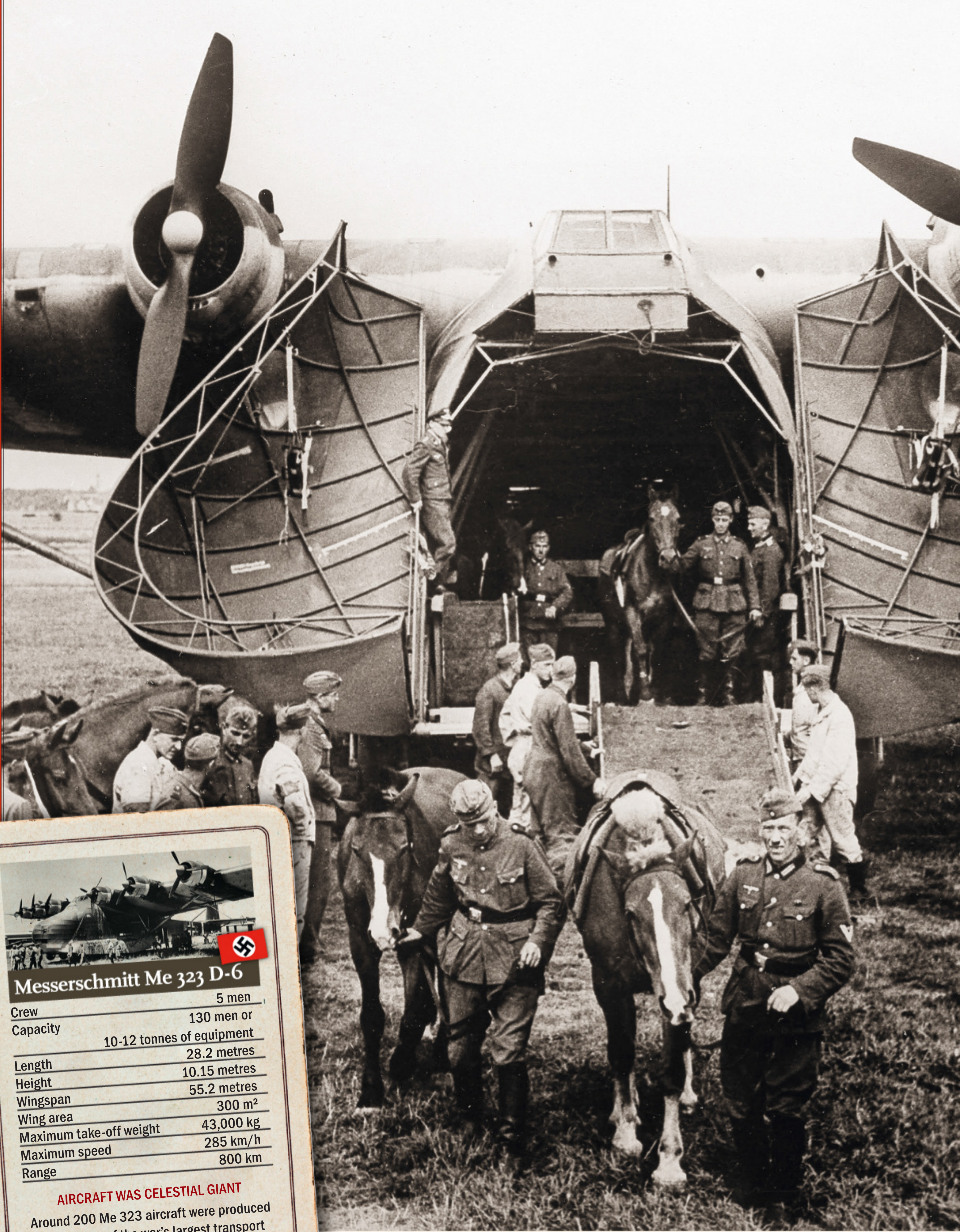
SPORT

Sport prepared Germans for war

The Nazis used sporting triumphs to demonstrate the greatness and superiority of Germans over other peoples. In addition, aggressive sports like boxing sharpened the warrior instincts of SS soldiers and Hitler Youth boys.

At a national level, Hitler relied on boxing hero Max Schmeling. The fighter carried Germany's hopes in the fight against the black American boxer Joe Louis. Their heavyweight duels weren't only perceived as a racial struggle, but a battle between democracy and Nazism. Football similarly reflected increased international rivalries in the 1930s. International matches became a dress rehearsal for the world war that was about to erupt.

Under the shadow of Hitler's annexation of Austria two months previously, *English football team Aston Villa played three matches against German Select XIs in May 1938. Prior to these games, Hitler dissolved the Austrian national side and forced the best players to represent Germany instead.*



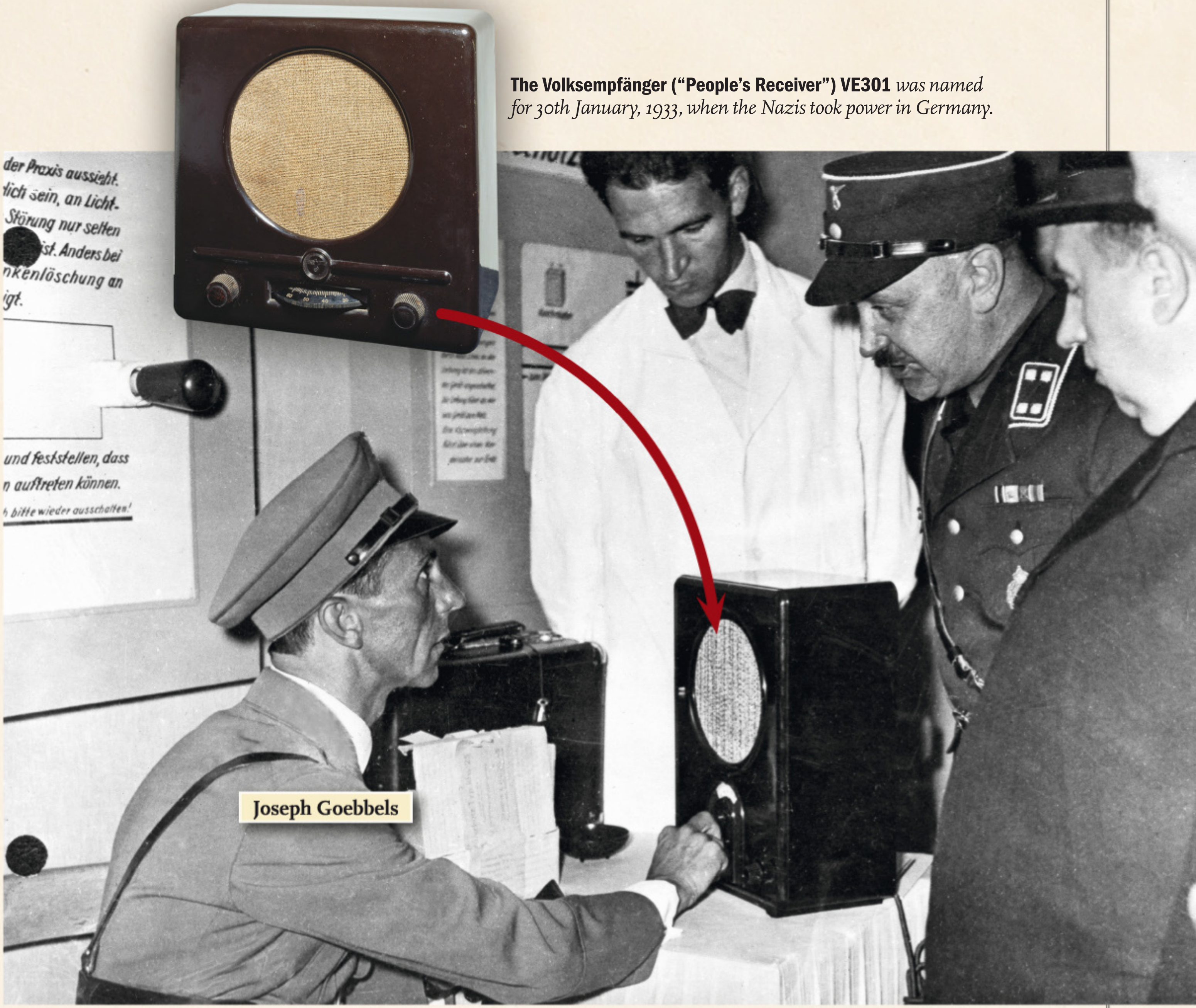
Messerschmitt Me 323 D-6

Crew	5 men
Capacity	130 men or 10-12 tonnes of equipment
Length	28.2 metres
Height	10.15 metres
Wingspan	55.2 metres
Wing area	300 m²
Maximum take-off weight	43,000 kg
Maximum speed	285 km/h
Range	800 km

AIRCRAFT WAS CELESTIAL GIANT

Around 200 Me 323 aircraft were produced – it was one of the war's largest transport aircraft with the nickname "Gigant" (Giant).

Germans in remote territories required a plane *that could transport both vehicles and heavy equipment. The result was the Messerschmitt Me 323 Gigant, which flew missions to North Africa after the Allies sank German supply ships crossing the Mediterranean.*



The Volksempfänger ("People's Receiver") VE301 *was named for 30th January, 1933, when the Nazis took power in Germany.*

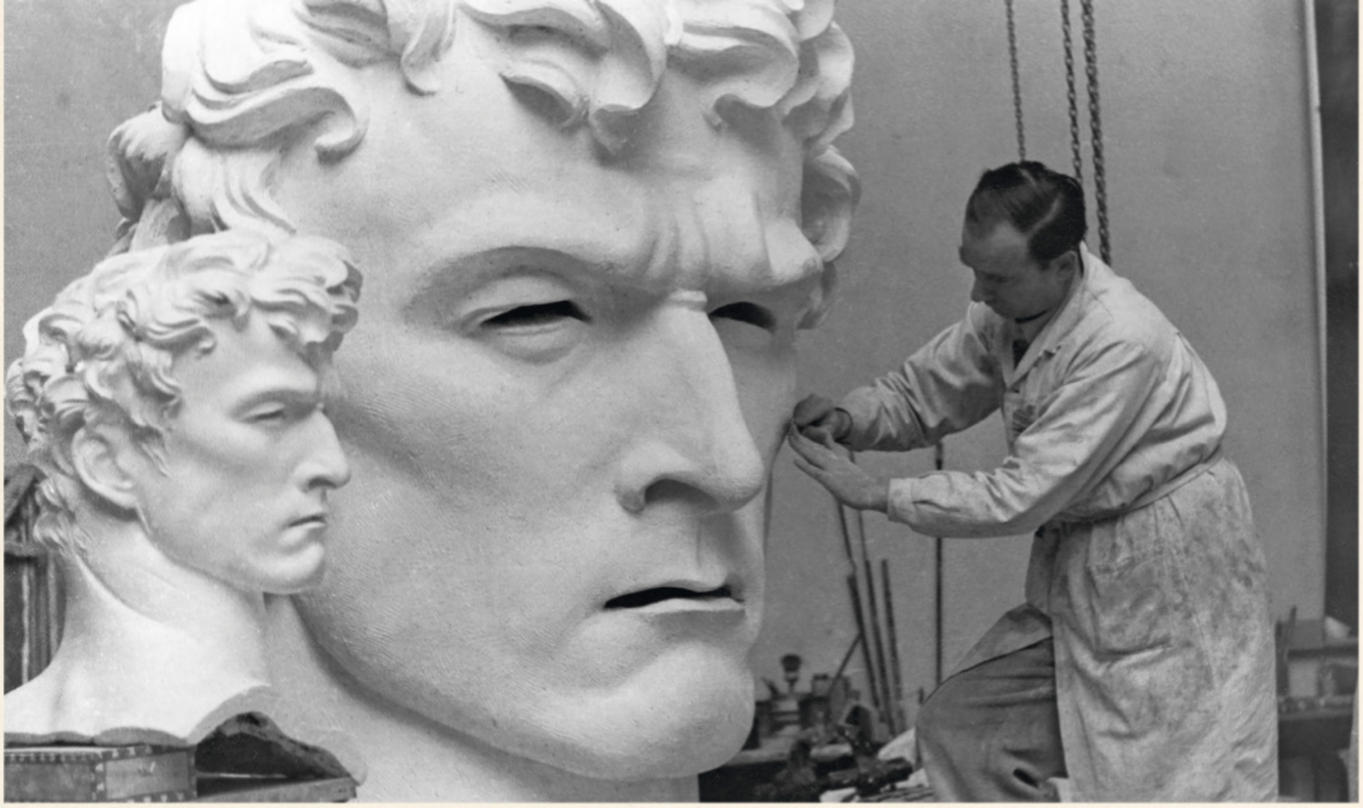
In 1933, radio broadcasts only reached about a quarter of the German population *because radios cost around three months' average wages. Propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels wanted a cheap model – the Volksempfänger VE301 – that everyone could afford.*

TECHNOLOGY

Hitler's voice reached everyone

From 1933, Germans could purchase a small and simple radio called Volksempfänger (People's Receiver). The price equated to two weeks' average wages, and most families could afford one. Radio was an important propaganda tool that delivered Hitler's speeches and Nazi slogans to the whole population. The Volkswagen car was created following the same "democratic" principle as the radio – however, the car was not produced in large numbers during the war. On the other hand, its military edition was a big success. The Nazi regime took advantage of the high technological level of German industry to develop advanced military equipment.

Although a Volkswagen was no more expensive than a small motorcycle, *ordinary Germans weren't given the chance to buy one during the war, where top-ranking Nazis took priority.*



Third Reich's sculptors attempted to imitate antique busts and sculptures, *and emphasised flawless, clean and muscular figures. Hitler appointed Arno Breker as the state's official sculptor and gave the artist a workshop with 43 assistants.*

ART

The Nazis copied ancient art

Bombastic buildings, pure symmetrical lines and muscular figures characterised the art and architecture of the Third Reich. Inspiration from antiquity was designed to bathe the Nazis in the reflected glory of both ancient Greece and Rome.

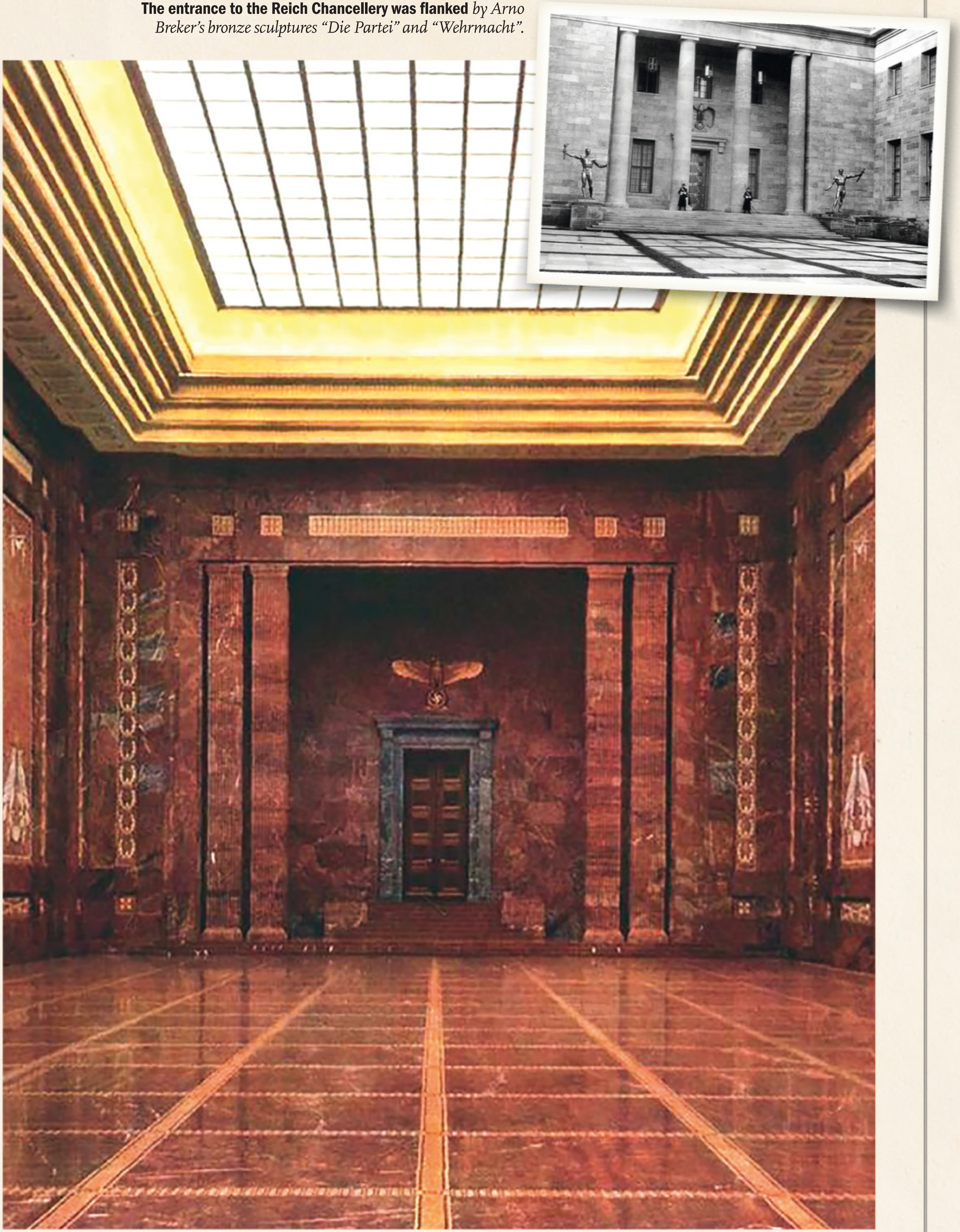
Sculptures and paintings praised the Aryan ideal. The subjects were tall, perfect, masculine men – the German soldiers of the future – and feminine, blonde women who stayed at home to raise the next generation of warriors and housewives. The architecture radiated the overall power of the regime. Enormous official buildings with pillars imitated ancient temples and imperial buildings, making people feel impotent in relation to the state. Individuals only had meaning as part of the Nazi popular mass.

VON DER BELEGSCHAFT

The Nazis took over the German empire, *which had roots in imperial Roman standards.*

Cinema disseminated propaganda in the Third Reich, *where director Leni Riefenstahl praised Nazism in films such as "The Victory of Faith" and "Triumph of the Will".*

The entrance to the Reich Chancellery was flanked *by Arno Breker's bronze sculptures "Die Partei" and "Wehrmacht".*

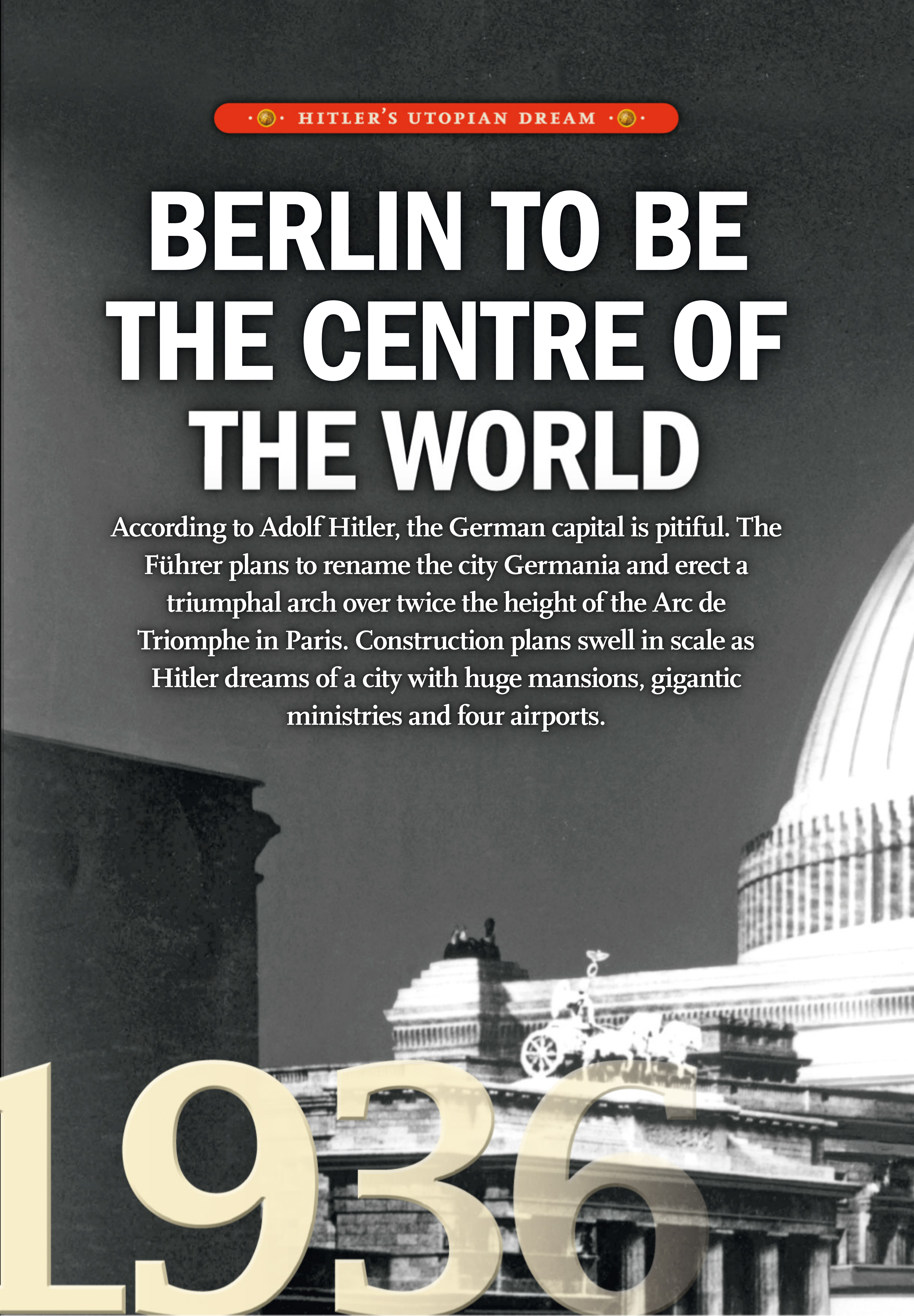


The new Reich Chancellery was completed in the late 1930s as the first building in Germania *– Adolf Hitler's planned reconstruction of Berlin. The building was constructed in a flashy classical style that would express the total power of the Nazi regime and impress both ordinary Germans and foreign statesmen. The dimensions were huge – the Führer's office was 400 square metres alone.*

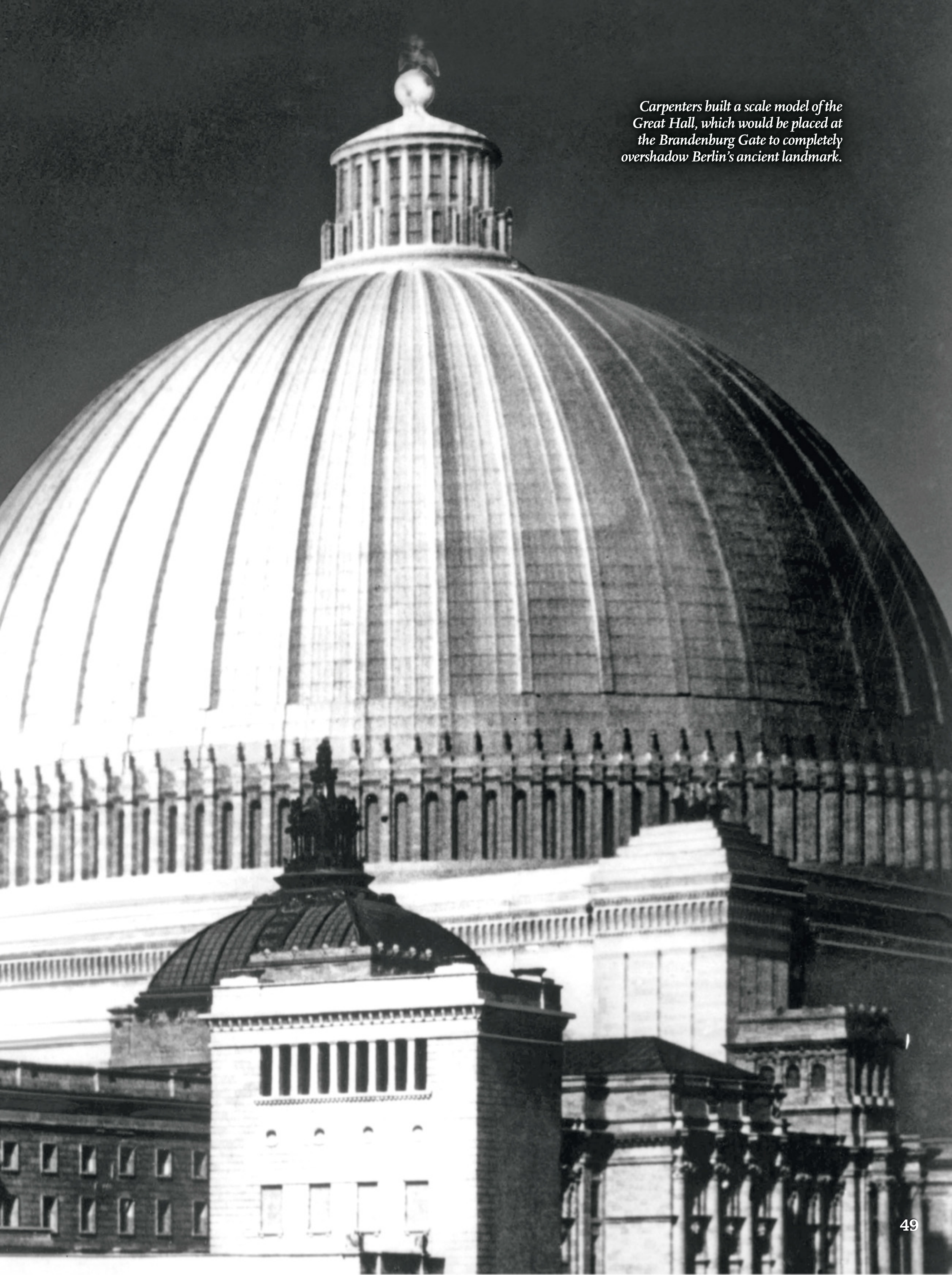
HITLER'S UTOPIAN DREAM

BERLIN TO BE THE CENTRE OF THE WORLD

According to Adolf Hitler, the German capital is pitiful. The Führer plans to rename the city Germania and erect a triumphal arch over twice the height of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Construction plans swell in scale as Hitler dreams of a city with huge mansions, gigantic ministries and four airports.



1936



Carpenters built a scale model of the Great Hall, which would be placed at the Brandenburg Gate to completely overshadow Berlin's ancient landmark.

Berlin, 1936

THE STAGE IS SET

Berlin
GERMANY

Hitler has worked to rebuild Germany for three years. The Nazis have built hundreds of kilometres of roads and thousands of homes for the German people. In 1936, the Führer gives orders for his most ambitious project yet: architect Albert Speer must raise a giant metropolis in Berlin's ancient city centre.

When Hitler inspected the construction of a motorway with architect Albert Speer in the spring of 1936, the Führer remarked: "I still have one more building assignment to give out. The greatest of all".

Hitler did not elaborate on his architectural plans as foreign policy tasks were more pressing. Hitler planned to test the resolve of Britain and France by sending German troops into the demilitarised Rhineland zone that the country had lost control of after World War I. London and Paris reacted only with feeble protests. The German hunt for other territorial objectives could now begin.

By June, Hitler was ready to unveil his construction plans to Speer: "There's nothing to be done with the Berlin city government. From now on you make the plans", he said, handing the architect two postcard-sized pieces of paper. "Take this drawing along. When you have something ready, show it to me".

Hitler's drawings depicted a huge triumphal arch and an even larger domed hall that could accommodate 180,000 people. The buildings would stand at either end of a parade five kilometres long, inspired by the famous Champs-Élysées in Paris.

"I made these drawings ten years ago. I've always saved them, because I never doubted that some day I would build these two edifices. And this is how we will carry it out now", Hitler explained to Speer. Surprised and thoughtful, the 31-year-old Speer left the meeting. In the space of just six years he'd enjoyed a meteoric rise from unemployed draftsman living off his father to celebrated architect for the Nazis.

Joseph Stalin invited Speer to Moscow in 1940 to get his take on a new plan for the capital, but Hitler refused to let Speer travel. He was afraid that Stalin would hold on to the architect.

City must be ready by 1950

Speer first encountered Hitler at a rally in Berlin in 1930 where he'd been captivated by the charismatic Nazi leader. The architect subsequently joined the Nazi party, where he served as adjutant. After the Nazis came to power in 1933, Speer was commissioned to renovate the party's Berlin headquarters.

The architect won recognition for his monstrous style and short delivery time. When Hitler saw Speer's works, he tasked the architect with expanding the party's parade ground in Nuremberg. Long before the construction was completed, the dictator had given Speer his next task: the rebuilding of Berlin as Germania, the capital for the Nazis' oncoming thousand-year Reich. The construction would need to be ready for inauguration by 1950, Hitler decreed.

Speer had only a vague notion of how large Hitler really wanted these buildings to be. To be certain, he enlarged Hitler's drawings so he could measure the drawn people to calculate the height of the building.

During his prep, Speer discovered that Hitler's idea of a flat dome for the Great Hall was impractical. Instead, he drew an oversized version of St Peter's Basilica in Rome. The Führer's triumphal arch, which he wanted to equip with a simple balustrade, provided the architect with a forest of columns.

After several months, Speer was ready to present his draft. Out of respect for Hitler's sketches he didn't put his name under the drawings, leaving a space for Hitler's signature. This honour, however, the dictator declined.

Germania swelled

It didn't take Speer long to realise the impossibility of rolling out a version of the Champs-Élysées five kilometres long through Berlin, placing the Great Hall and triumphal arch at each end. The parade would feel out of place unless it was integrated into a larger proposal for the city.

The plan quickly assumed gigantic proportions: Speer would create two axes through the capital: one from south to north, the other from east to west. The axes would cross each other in the centre of Berlin near the Great Hall. The

1895-1956

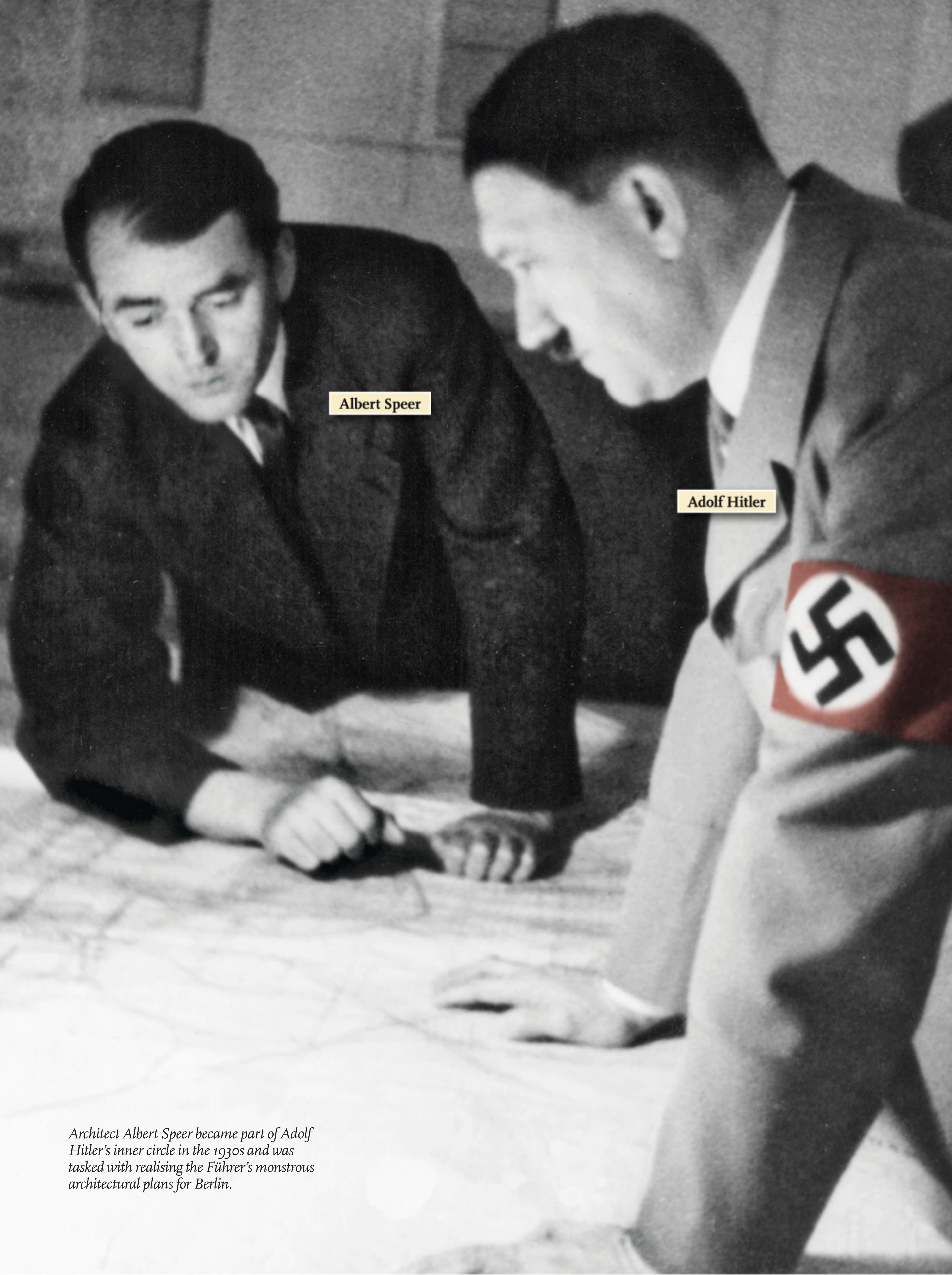
NAME **JULIUS LIPPERT**

TITLE MAYOR OF BERLIN

Rabid anti-Semite reigned in Berlin

As a youth Julius Lippert developed an extreme hatred of Jewish people, and as Reichskommissar of Berlin from 1933 played a large role in the Nazis' early persecution of Jews in the capital. From 1937, Lippert was Berlin's mayor, but was fired in 1940 after disagreeing with Albert Speer over urban planning.

- **Helped murder the German Foreign Minister in 1922.**
- **Sentenced to six years hard labour after the war.**


Albert Speer
Adolf Hitler

Architect Albert Speer became part of Adolf Hitler's inner circle in the 1930s and was tasked with realising the Führer's monstrous architectural plans for Berlin.

URBAN PLANNING

Construction was never completed

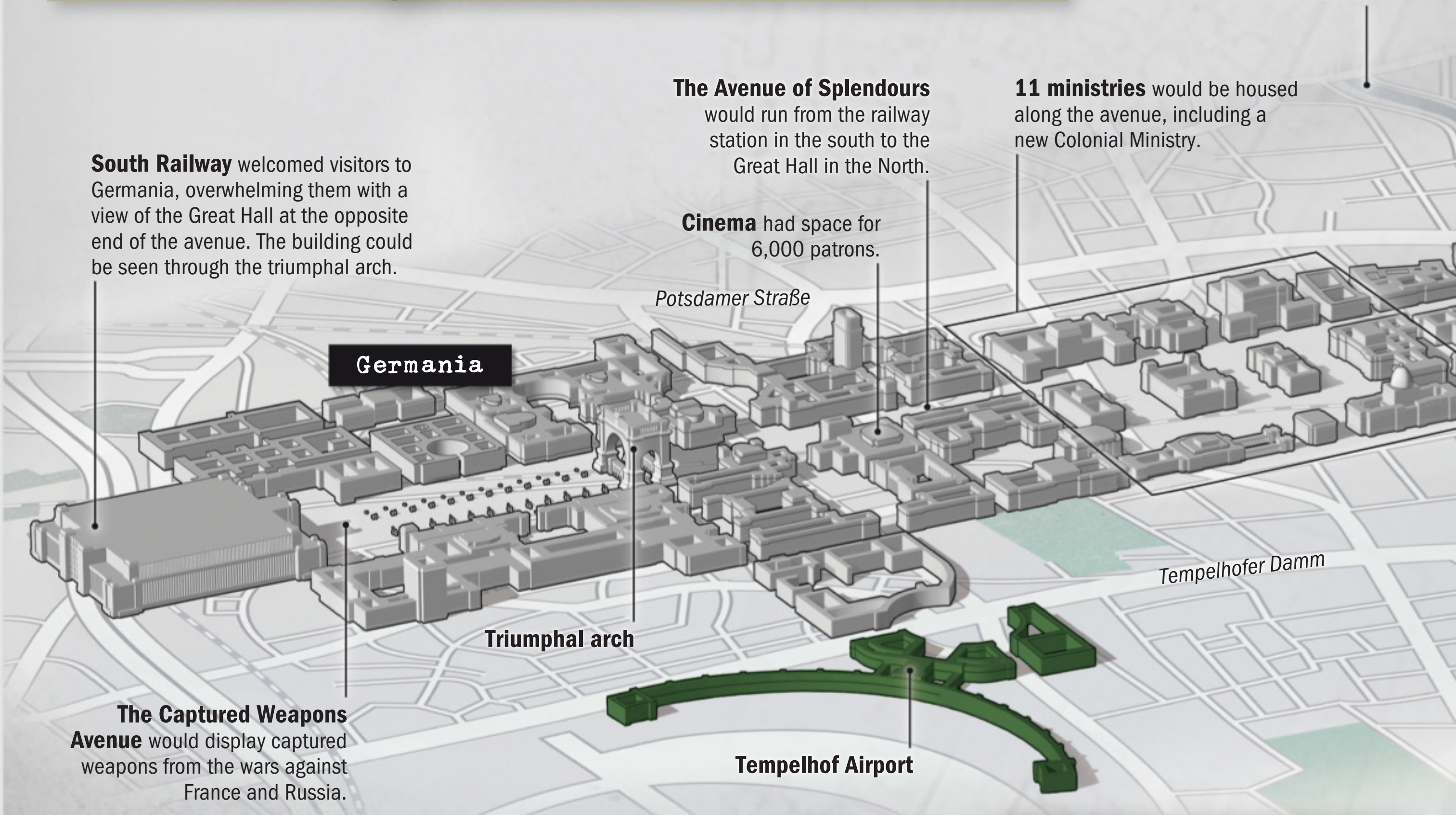
Ambitions were high when Adolf Hitler and Albert Speer planned a reconstruction of Berlin. The main Avenue of Splendours was to form the backbone of Germania, but most of the proposals never got beyond the drawing board. The dictator and architect's plan was only ever realised as a model city.

Tempelhof Airport

FACTS

STREET WAS CENTRAL AXIS

- The entire centre of Berlin was to be demolished and rebuilt with huge buildings flanking the Avenue of Splendours.
- The buildings would house public administration, ministries, businesses, luxury restaurants and entertainment, such as cinemas, an opera house, concert hall and three theatres.
- The Avenue of Splendours was to run 5 km across the new centre from the southern railway station through the triumphal arch, along the Soldiers' Hall to Tiergarten and the Great Hall to the north.



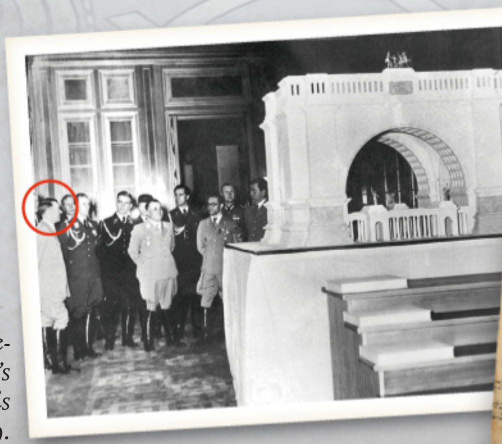
South Railway welcomed visitors to Germania, overwhelming them with a view of the Great Hall at the opposite end of the avenue. The building could be seen through the triumphal arch.

The Avenue of Splendours would run from the railway station in the south to the Great Hall in the North.

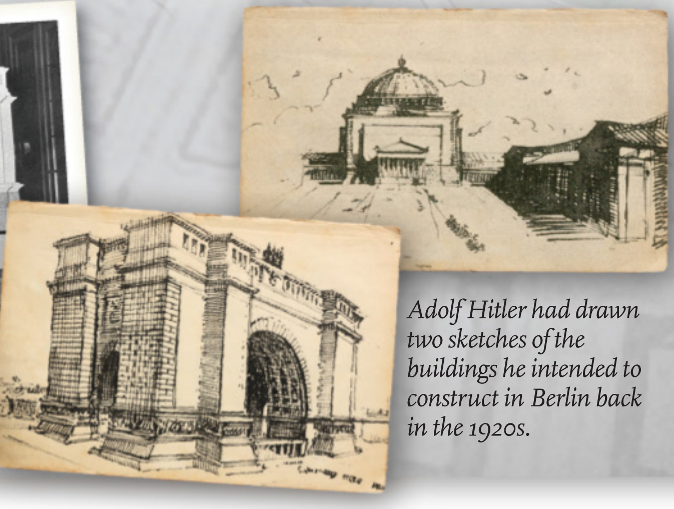
11 ministries would be housed along the avenue, including a new Colonial Ministry.

Cinema had space for 6,000 patrons.

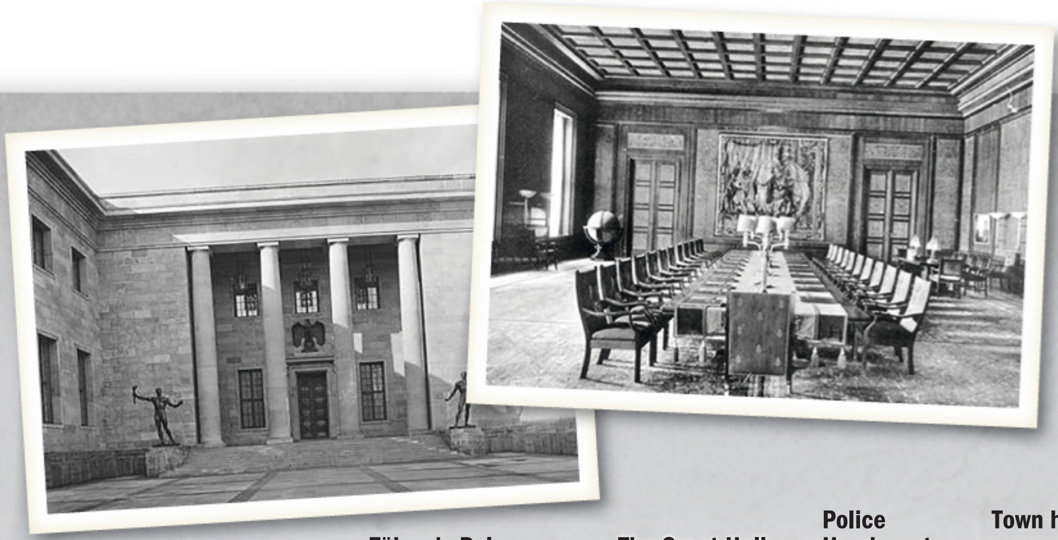
The Captured Weapons Avenue would display captured weapons from the wars against France and Russia.



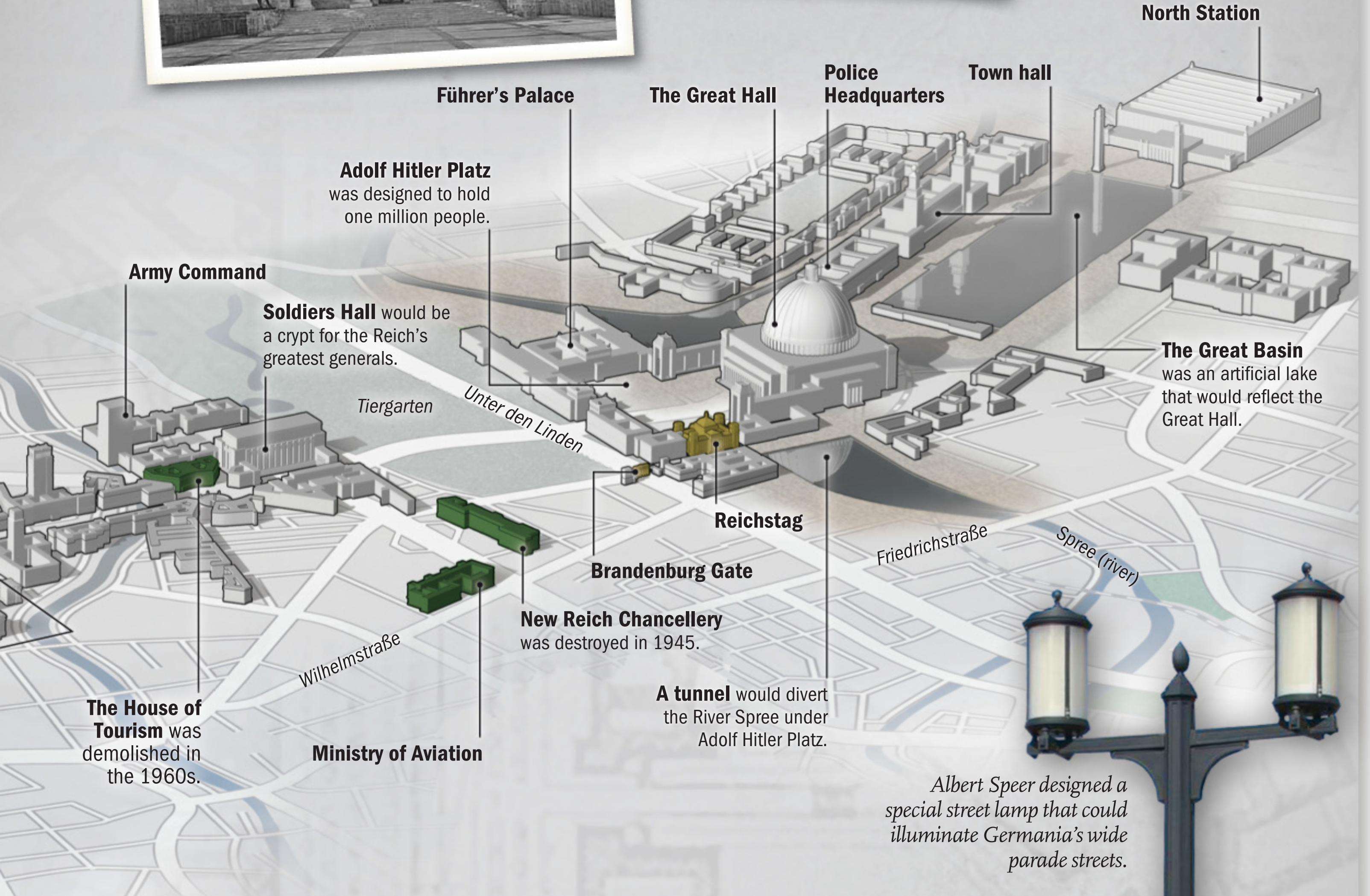
Hitler received a metre-high model of Germania's Arch of Triumph for his 50th birthday in 1939.



Adolf Hitler had drawn two sketches of the buildings he intended to construct in Berlin back in the 1920s.



The Reich Chancellery was one of the few Germania buildings actually built. The style was inspired by ancient architecture.



North Station

Town hall

Police Headquarters

The Great Hall

Führer's Palace

Adolf Hitler Platz was designed to hold one million people.

Army Command

Soldiers Hall would be a crypt for the Reich's greatest generals.

The Great Basin was an artificial lake that would reflect the Great Hall.

Reichstag

Brandenburg Gate

New Reich Chancellery was destroyed in 1945.

A tunnel would divert the River Spree under Adolf Hitler Platz.

The House of Tourism was demolished in the 1960s.

Ministry of Aviation

Albert Speer designed a special street lamp that could illuminate Germania's wide parade streets.

Only two buildings were to be reused

▨ PLANNED

The Nazis planned to demolish 50,000 apartments in Berlin's city centre to make way for ministries and other public buildings to be constructed along the new main axis.

The buildings would be constructed in **granite**. The material would ensure that the buildings remained standing as immortal monuments to the Third Reich's capital, even when the city became ruined over time.

▨ REUSED

The **Brandenburg Gate** and **Reichstag** should be preserved in Germania as historical monuments. The Brandenburg Gate dated from 1791. It had been built in the neoclassical style and originally served as a city gate. The Reichstag had been severely damaged by fire in 1933, but was scheduled to be restored.

Both buildings would look tiny next to the new, gigantic buildings.

🟩 NEWLY BUILT

Construction began in 1939, but the war soon monopolised all German resources and work halted. Four buildings were built: Tempelhof Airport, Ministry of Aviation, House of Tourism and the new Reich Chancellery. Two of the buildings – **Tempelhof Airport** and the **Ministry of Aviation** – still stand. Today, the German Finance Ministry is housed in the former Ministry of Aviation buildings.

Hitler was heavily involved in the Germania plans. The Führer proposed several ideas and helped to choose building materials.

architect planned an airport for each end of the four axes. A highway would encircle the city with inner ring roads also circumnavigating the capital. Access roads would radiate from the centre out to the highway like spokes in a wheel. The railway network was to be completely restructured, so the city's many railway stations would be replaced with just two central stations – the Südbahnhof (South Station) and Nordbahnhof (North Station). Areas containing obsolete railway tracks would then be released for use in the construction plans.

In addition, Speer planned new residential areas as well as a university and a medical district. New parks were to be built and several rapid-transit subways planned for the city's U-Bahn underground system. Hitler was delighted, but as the months passed, it became clear that dictator's interest lay primarily in the wide Avenue of Splendours, which was included in the north-south axis. When the dictator and Speer met to discuss the building plans, the architect's employer listened to the updates before asking, "Where do you have the plans for the grand avenue?"

Speer and Hitler met several times a week, late in the evening after the Führer had completed his work. The architect and employer could spend anything from a few hours to half the night bent over the construction drawings and models.

"Berlin will one day be the capital of the world", Hitler predicted, as he imagined how visitors would feel both awestruck and intimidated by the huge buildings.

AIR DEFENCES FEARED SIZE

Speer was given a workplace in the immediate vicinity of the Reichstag, so Hitler could walk unseen through his garden to visit the architect and his 30-metre-long model of the city. The model was mounted on trolleys, so the viewer could push parts aside and enter the city. Hitler would often slip down to peer at the model just a few millimetres above the table.

"He would revel in visions of ministries, office buildings and showrooms for major German corporations, a new opera house, luxury hotels and amusement palaces – and I gladly joined in these visions", Speer later wrote.

In one case, air defence officials heard about the planned 290-metre-high Great Hall. One warned that enemy planes would use the building to target Berlin, but Hitler swept all doubts aside.

"Göring has assured me that no enemy plane will enter Germany. We will not let that sort of thing stand in the way of our plans".

Hitler and Speer tried to keep the construction plans secret. The Führer feared the reaction if Berliners were told that at least 50,000 apartments would be demolished to make room for the new buildings. Berlin's Nazi mayor Julius Lippert, knew about the plans and agitated against the project, however. His resistance led to Hitler removing the official, so the scheme could continue.

Work started in 1939, and columns of workers moved into the centre of Berlin to tear down houses. Berliners in the area had to leave their homes and were relocated to apartments that had previously belonged to Jews. These displaced residents were crammed into smaller houses and soon deported to concentration camps.

The Führer's palace would take up an area of two million square metres. The building was projected for completion in 1950, when Hitler would move into the palace.

Speer's employees went to Norway and Sweden to buy granite. The architect believed the material could infuse Germania with the same enduring magic as the ancient ruins of Greece and Italy. The granite would give the new city an image of grandeur and permanence.

In 1941, the Swedish stone industry signed a supply agreement with the Germans for 10 million cubic metres of granite. Swedish quarries were secured for 10 years, but few stones were dispatched.

GERMANIA ENDED IN GRAVEYARDS

By 1942, the Germans had announced the Third Reich could no longer receive the stones. Work on Germania had halted and its workers transferred to other, more urgent tasks. Germany still paid the Swedes, however, and the quarried granite piled up in Norway and Sweden, ready to be picked up once Germany had won the war. To secure victory over the Allies, Hitler had given his favourite architect the role of Minister of Armaments. Thanks to his impressive organisational abilities, Speer was able to multiply war production through many means, including the use of Jewish concentration camp prisoners.

During the Nuremberg Trials in 1946 Speer denied all knowledge about the extermination of Jews and the inhuman conditions in concentration camps. Hitler's architect avoided execution and was sentenced to 20 years in prison, served at Spandau prison in Berlin.

After his release, Speer drove to Tempelhof airport and passed through the area earmarked for the Avenue of Splendours. At the sight of the House of German Tourism, one of the few completed buildings in the Germania project, the architect was alarmed by its lifelessness. It was demolished shortly afterwards.

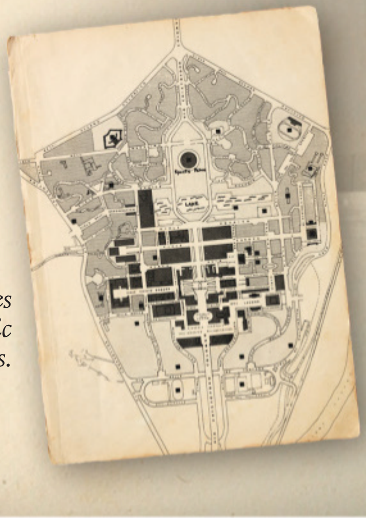
The granite blocks in were never picked up. In the years after the war they lay waiting in various ports until stonemasons purchased the blocks. In this way, a large part of Hitler's Germania ended as tombstones in several European countries.

PERSPECTIVE

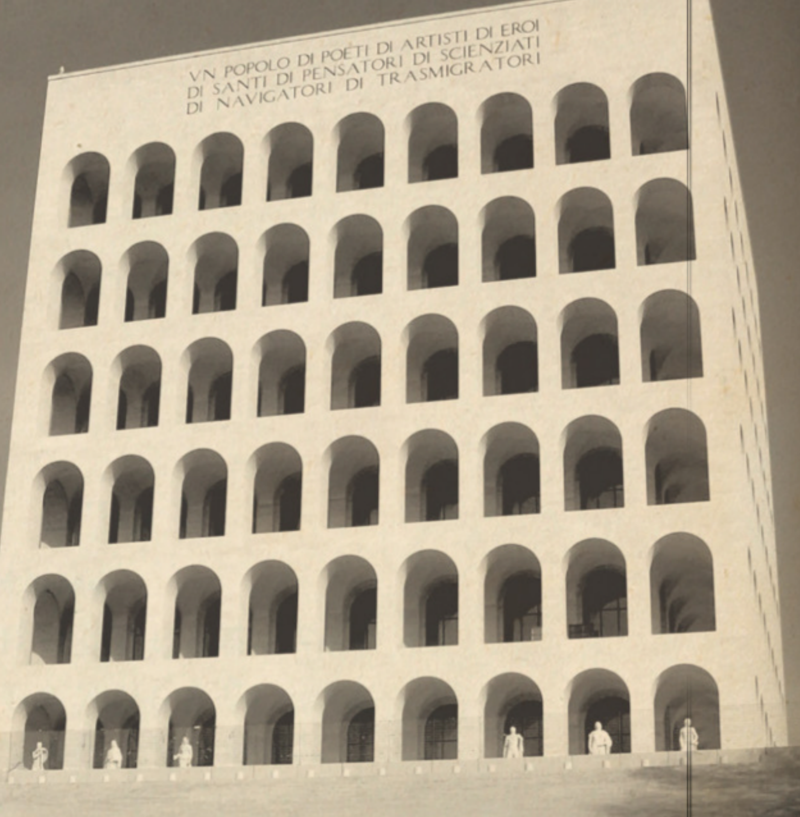
Mussolini built new district

While Hitler dreamed of a new Berlin, Il Duce turned his fascist ideals into a monumental neo-classical urban area.

The fascists occupied the EUR district in Rome from the 1930s. The country's dictator Benito Mussolini wanted an area that could replace the capital's old centre and became the city's new landmark. Residential blocks and palaces containing colonnades and statues in marble, tuff and limestone in the ancient Roman style shot up. The district was to be completed for the World Fair in 1942, but the war prevented the exhibition and the fascists postponed the project. Nevertheless, the buildings were completed after the war.



The district now houses homes, offices, public buildings and green spaces.


VN POPOLO DI POETI DI ARTISTI DI EROI
DI SANTI DI PENSATORI DI SCIENZIATI
DI NAVIGATORI DI TRASMIGRATORI

The Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana is the biggest and best-known building in EUR.

Hitler was the rock star of his day and guards had to protect him from people who strived to touch their idol.

1938

30TH SEPTEMBER

HITLER IS THE NEW MESSIAH

Adolf Hitler is not just Germany's head of state. The Nazi leader is seen as a demigod through people's eyes. The cult around the Führer's person has sprung up thanks to a strategy that positions him firmly in German daily lives.

Germany, 1938

THE STAGE IS SET

Hitler has everything it takes to become Germany's new strongman: charisma, eloquence and confidence. But he lacks someone who can transform him into the image of a hero. The Nazis find the right man in Joseph Goebbels. He manipulates Hitler's appearance, so Germans will view the Führer as a demigod.

In the early hours of 30th September, 1938, the heads of state from Germany, France, Britain and Italy signed the Munich Agreement. It allowed Nazi Germany to enter the independent country of Czechoslovakia and bring large areas of German-speaking peoples "back home to the Reich". A few hours later, the agreement was announced and within days German tanks had rolled across the border into Czechoslovakia.

In the eyes of the German people, Hitler had done it again. Through statesmanship, the Führer had outmanoeuvred other European leaders and rescued a large German minority, without a war.

Hitler's triumph was no surprise to most Germans. Since he'd entered the political scene, the little man with the big voice had enjoyed a string of successes, and many regarded him as infallible. Hitler's strong persona met a need many had felt after a period of economic struggle, as growing unemployment and despair spread among the population.

"We long for the Leader. He should show us the way", wrote one German writer in the 1920s, while another described this mythical figure as "hard, straightforward and ruthless... He carries out the will of God".

Hitler had long been preparing himself to become such a leader. In 1919 he joined the German Worker's Party (DAP), which changed its name to the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP) while keeping its nationalist, anti-Jewish programme. Rapidly Hitler rose to become party spokesman, making his name as a skilled orator with a magnetic personality.

Führer myth took shape

In 1921, Hitler became supreme leader of the Nazi party, and shortly after adopted the title "Führer". This claim emphasised how many in the party had already begun to cultivate the demagogue as a saviour. Enthusiasm was widespread, particularly in Munich where the Nazi movement had originated. For the same reason, the young party chose Munich to launch its coup against the Weimar Republic in November 1923. But the coup failed, the NSDAP was banned, and Hitler was sentenced to five years in prison for high treason.

The aspiring statesman used his stay in prison to write the book *Mein Kampf*, where he took on the role of redeemer and explained how he would lead Germany to renewed greatness by exterminating Jews and capturing large areas to the east.

Hitler was released several years ahead of time in December 1924 and escaped deportation back to his native Austria, which had been considered. In February 1925 the NSDAP resumed, and Hitler immediately began to emerge as the man to rescue Germany. The party leader's messages could not have come at a better time in an out-of-kilter Germany. Hitler spoke directly to the hearts of both working and middle classes with his strong nationalist, anti-communist and anti-Jewish views.

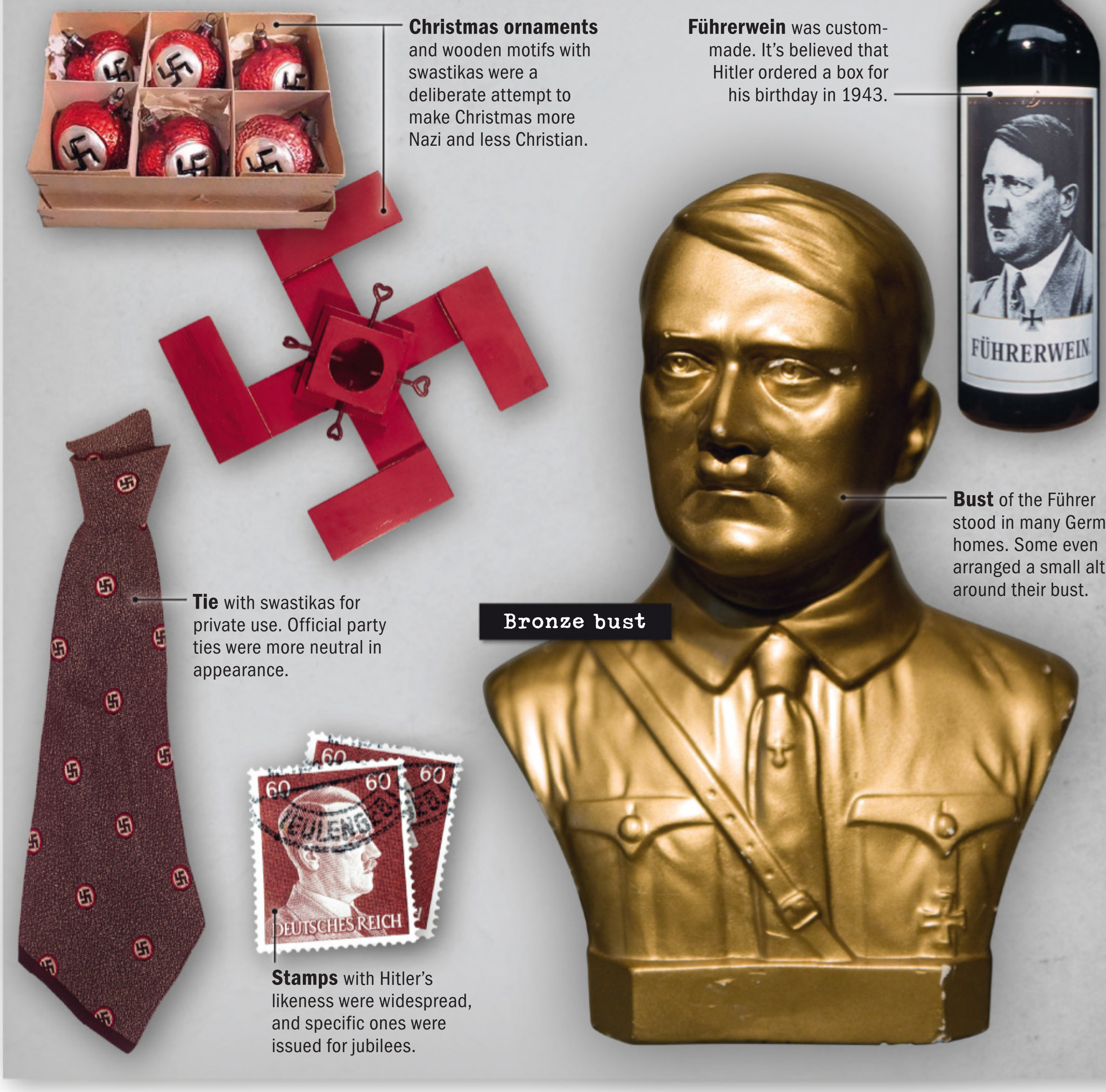
Foreign journalists weren't blind to the new political phenomenon in Germany. In a letter to the editor of the New York Evening Post, American journalist and author Hubert Renfro Knickerbocker wrote: "Hitler is a cork. He floats on the crest of every wave of popular sentiment. No man

Heil Adolf Hitler!

In 1938, Austrians were delighted when Hitler annexed the land of his birth into the Third Reich.

Nazism was everywhere

The worship of Hitler assumed an almost religious degree. The Führer's face and Nazi symbols were used throughout German society.



Christmas ornaments and wooden motifs with swastikas were a deliberate attempt to make Christmas more Nazi and less Christian.

Führerwein was custom-made. It's believed that Hitler ordered a box for his birthday in 1943.

Bust of the Führer stood in many German homes. Some even arranged a small altar around their bust.

Tie with swastikas for private use. Official party ties were more neutral in appearance.

Stamps with Hitler's likeness were widespread, and specific ones were issued for jubilees.

in Germany can smell the trend of mass feeling and respond to it as Hitler can".

Hitler was well aware that eloquence alone was not enough. Until about 1930 he was mostly feted by party members. Modern propaganda techniques were required to sell the image of a new saviour to the entire nation, and Joseph Goebbels, with his PhD in literature, was the man to do it.

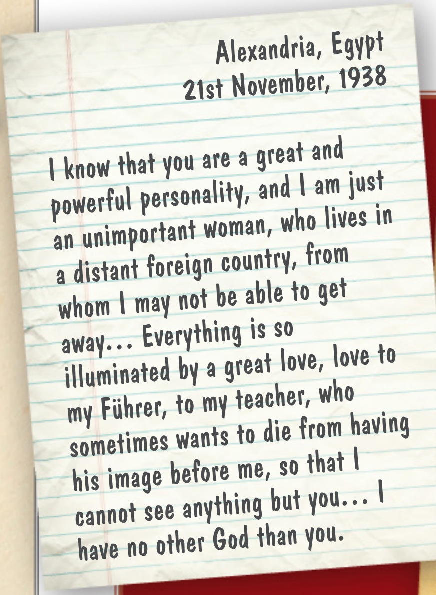
Shortly after he'd met Hitler for the first time, Goebbels wrote in his diary: "That man's got everything to be a king: a popular leader born and bred".

Goebbels' strategy from the beginning was to strengthen the notion of Hitler as a saviour who from humble beginnings had risen to fill his natural position as Germany's redeemer. One story told repeatedly was how Hitler with a few, but faithful, disciples had held to his cause despite imprisonment and resistance.

MESSIAH DESCENDED FROM THE SKY

As part of the campaign launch, the Nazis also stood for election in the Weimar Republic, where Goebbels agitated via public meetings and posters. At the elections in July 1932 he launched the "Hitler over Germany" campaign, where Hitler flew to 20 cities in six days and spoke to millions of Germans. The symbolism of Hitler landing by plane was unmistakable: the Messiah descending from heaven to his people.

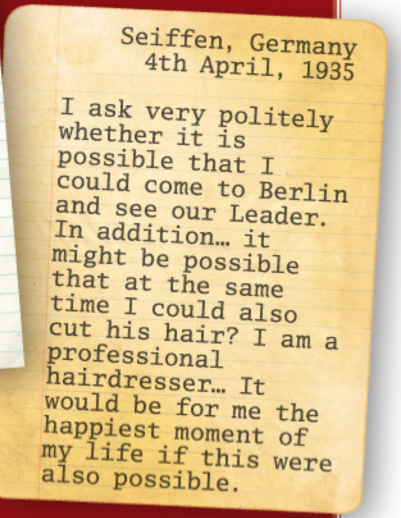
When the Nazis came to power in 1933, Goebbels had almost unlimited opportunities to promote Hitler. As Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, he



Alexandria, Egypt
21st November, 1938

I know that you are a great and powerful personality, and I am just an unimportant woman, who lives in a distant foreign country, from whom I may not be able to get away... Everything is so illuminated by a great love, love to my Führer, to my teacher, who sometimes wants to die from having his image before me, so that I cannot see anything but you... I have no other God than you.

Baroness Else Hagen von Kilvein worshipped Hitler.



Seiffen, Germany
4th April, 1935

I ask very politely whether it is possible that I could come to Berlin and see our Leader. In addition… it might be possible that at the same time I could also cut his hair? I am a professional hairdresser… It would be for me the happiest moment of my life if this were also possible.

Barber Curt Rudolf Kempe dreamed of cutting Hitler's hair.

Führer inundated by fan mail from Germans

Excitement was huge, and many people wrote to the Führer to express their sympathetic feelings or even love.

For many Germans, Hitler was not just an ordinary man with good leadership skills, but a demigod. The Führer received some 12,000 fan letters a year from people spanning all walks of life. Some asked for advice, others sent gifts, and others just wanted to convey the extent to which the Führer had enriched their lives.

The letters were seized by Russian troops in Berlin after Germany's fall in 1945 and brought to Moscow, but have since been made public.

controlled all forms of communication: newspapers, books, magazines, radio and film. Anything that might be perceived as a threat to the regime was picked off via effective censorship. At the same time, Goebbels decided that artists and writers who expressed themselves publicly should be members of the Reich Chamber of Culture. And membership required acceptance of Nazi ideals.

Writers and artists soon felt the government's iron grip. All negative publicity of Hitler was banned, and special courts were set up to punish violations. At the same time, Nazis wiretapped phones and opened letters to curb any attempt at criticism.

Leni Riefenstahl built an image of Hitler as a superhuman with films like "Triumph of the Will".

Foreign journalists were both intimidated and impressed in equal measure. Negative publicity led to travel bans within Germany, but less critical reporters were invited to the annual parades, where Hitler was worshipped by the people. In 1934, US journalist William L Shirer witnessed an appearance at the annual rally in Nuremberg:

"Like a Roman emperor Hitler rode into this medieval town at sundown today past solid phalanxes of wildly cheering Nazis who packed the narrow streets".

Shortly afterwards, Shirer found himself in the crowd that screamed, "We want our Führer".

"They looked up at him as if he were a Messiah, their faces transformed into something positively inhuman. If he had remained in sight for more than a few moments, I think many of the women would have swooned from excitement", he reported home via the Universal Service news agency.

And the messianic idea was eagerly bought by ordinary citizens: "The realisation of my ideal could happen through only one man, Adolf Hitler", wrote one party member. "The rebirth of Germany can only be done by a man born not in palaces, but in a cottage".

FILM ENHANCED BRAND IMAGE

Belief in Hitler as the nation's saviour spread throughout the Third Reich. Gradually, people even began to attach divine powers to the Führer. Some created shrines with busts and pictures of Hitler where the family laid gifts and flowers. In many cities, people planted "Hitler trees", while on the Führer's birthday on 20th April, the streets were filled each year with parades, while signs and banners gushed with congratulations to the people's chancellor. In Munich, shopkeepers adorned their windows with Hitler busts draped with laurel wreaths.

Goebbels' propaganda ministry poured more fuel on to the enthusiastic fire by allowing Germans to view the Führer in theatres. Filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl produced "Triumph of the Will", an unreserved tribute to Hitler and Nazism's greatness that lasted 90 minutes.

The film showed Hitler arriving from the clouds, descending to earth in his plane. It built up an almost religious narrative that culminated with thousands of people forcefully shouting "Sieg Heil" towards their leader. Over 20 million Germans went to the movies to be seduced by the film.

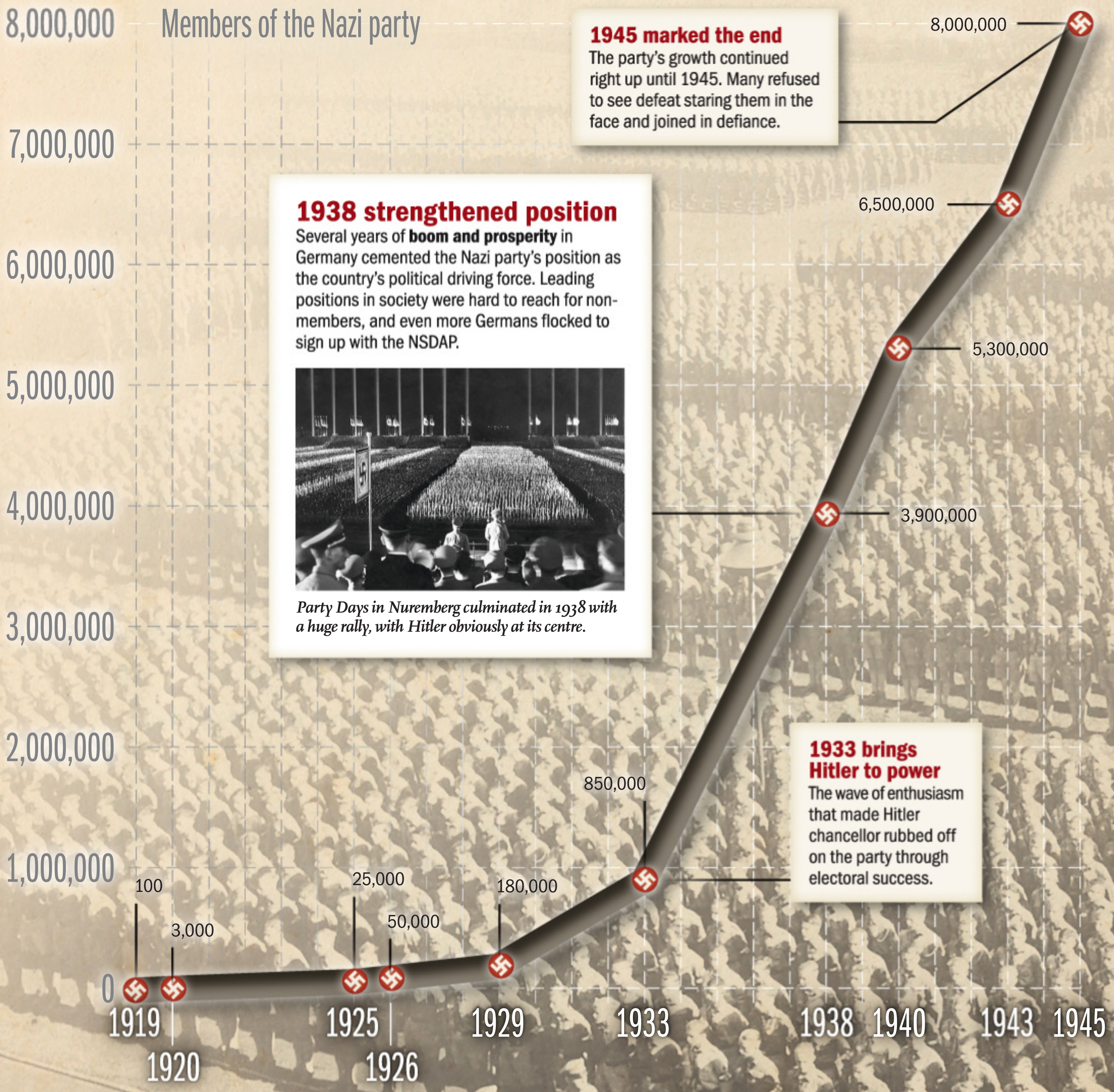
When Hitler's status as a demigod was finally established, the task was to maintain this public image. Therefore, from 1936 Hitler began to withdraw from domestic policy-making to avoid being associated with unpopular decisions that could pierce his bubble of infallibility. In people's eyes he would be lifted above everyday politics to focus on drawing the broad lines of the country's future and celebrate foreign policy triumphs.

Hitler's last major public appearance was in 1940 after the victory over France. As the campaign against the Soviet Union began to go wrong, Hitler no longer appeared at large gatherings and withdrew from public speaking.

The result was that even as everyone gradually became aware the war was being lost, Hitler preserved his unique status among the population. The majority of Germans were deeply shocked when in April 1945 the nation learned that its Messiah had taken his own life.

Party buoyed by cult status

Hitler's personal popularity lifted the Nazis to power. Millions of Germans followed their leader and joined the Nazi party. From modest beginnings in 1919 as the Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (German Workers Party), the movement grew right up to the end of the war and eventually connected with eight million people.



1945 marked the end

The party's growth continued right up until 1945. Many refused to see defeat staring them in the face and joined in defiance.

1938 strengthened position

Several years of **boom and prosperity** in Germany cemented the Nazi party's position as the country's political driving force. Leading positions in society were hard to reach for non-members, and even more Germans flocked to sign up with the NSDAP.

Party Days in Nuremberg culminated in 1938 with a huge rally, with Hitler obviously at its centre.

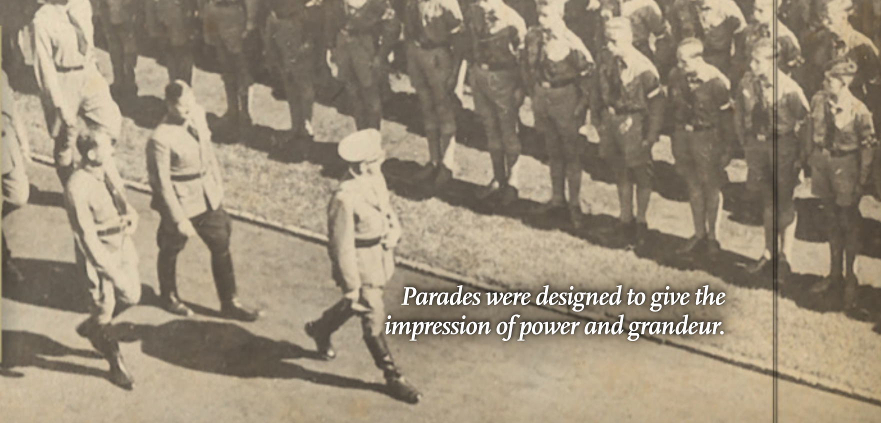
1933 brings Hitler to power

The wave of enthusiasm that made Hitler chancellor rubbed off on the party through electoral success.

FACTS

NSDAP LASTED 25 YEARS

- Nazi party, the NSDAP, was founded on 24th February, 1920 as a continuation of the DAP, which was founded in 1919.
- The NSDAP stood in a series of elections. Its best showing came in March 1933 when the Nazis secured 43.9 percent of the vote.
- Saluting with the right arm was the Nazi party's official greeting.
- Women had their own branch of the Nazi party: NS-Frauenschaft. The organisation attained over two million members.



Parades were designed to give the impression of power and grandeur.

Third Reich babies were cared for superbly – so long as the parents had the right Aryan genes.

1939

7TH OCTOBER

LEBENSBORN PROGRAMME

NAZIS KIDNAP ARYAN CHILDREN

People with the right genes are in high demand in Hitler's Germany and the Nazis will do everything possible to provide the Third Reich with blonde-haired and blue-eyed citizens. The party even kidnaps children from occupied countries and endorses non-marital sex.

Germany, 1939

THE STAGE IS SET

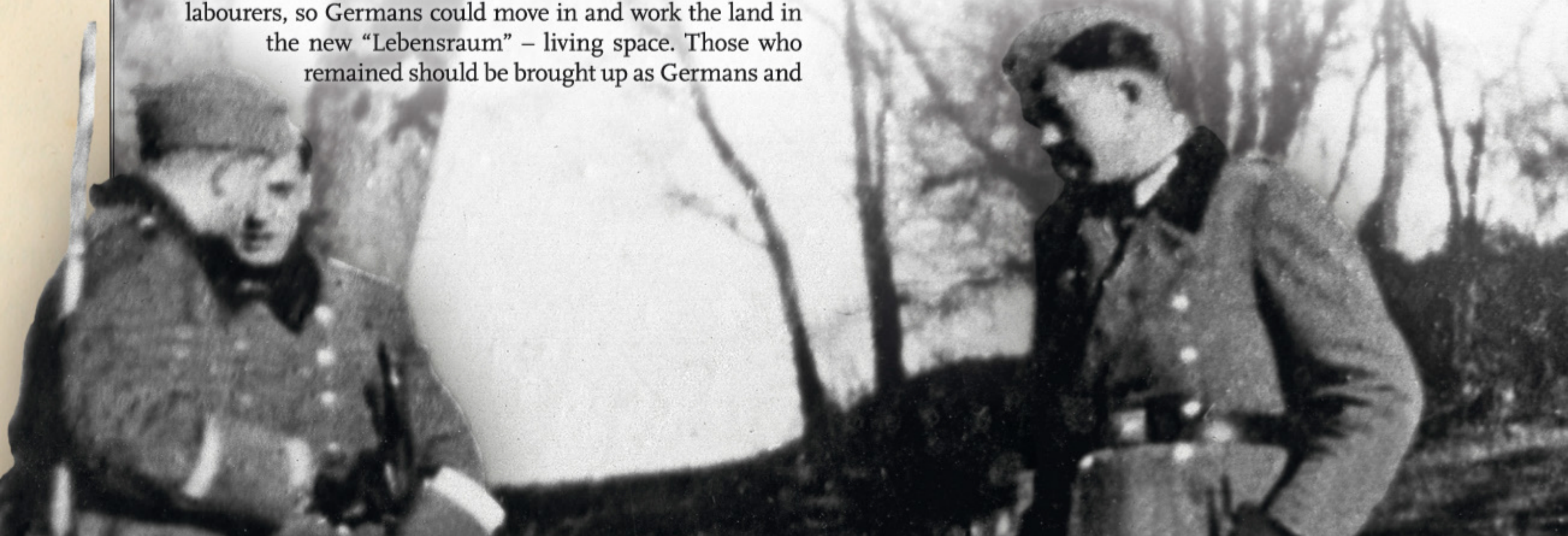
The Nazis' long-term plan is for the Germanic people to colonise Eastern Europe once the area has been cleared of its native residents. But Germany lacks people for the project. To solve the problem, SS boss Heinrich Himmler launches one of the Nazis' most bizarre projects: the Lebensborn programme.

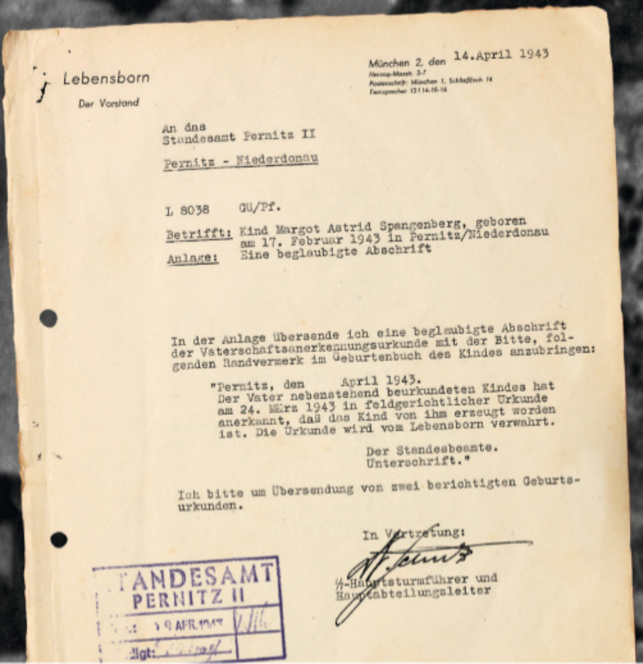
Heinrich Himmler was happy. 7th October, 1939 was a very special day for the SS-Reichsführer: Not only had he turned 39, but Hitler also appointed him as Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of German Nationhood. The title meant that Himmler was now responsible for the people of Poland, which Germany had occupied just one month earlier.

The Reich Commissioner wasted no time. He immediately ordered a report and one month later, 40 pages of text landed on his desk. The report contained a detailed plan on how to effectively use human resources in conquered areas to the east. Most of the population had to be moved or used as forced labourers, so Germans could move in and work the land in the new "Lebensraum" – living space. Those who remained should be brought up as Germans and become a part of the master race. The report recommended that selection occurred mainly among the youngest: "We should exclude from deportations racially valuable children and raise them in old Reich in proper educational facilities or in German family care", it stated before adding its recommendation: "The children must not be older than eight or ten years, because only till this age we can truly change their national identification, that is 'final Germanisation'".

Women did not have enough children

After Himmler had read the report, he decided that selection of racially suitable children in Poland and other occupied





Lebensborn
Der Vorstand

München 2, den 14.April 1943

An das
Standesamt Pernitz II

Pernitz - Niederdonau

L 8038 GÜ/Pf.

Betrifft: Kind Margot Astrid Spangenberg, geboren am 17. Februar 1943 in Pernitz/Niederdonau
Anlage: Eine beglaubigte Abschrift

In der Anlage übersende ich eine beglaubigte Abschrift der Vaterschaftsanerkennungsurkunde mit der Bitte, folgenden Randvermerk im Geburtenbuch des Kindes anzubringen:

"Pernitz, den April 1943.
Der Vater nebenstehend beurkundeten Kindes hat am 24. März 1943 in feldgerichtlicher Urkunde anerkannt, daß das Kind von ihm erzeugt worden ist. Die Urkunde wird vom Lebensborn verwahrt.
Der Standesbeamte.
Unterschrift."

Ich bitte um Übersendung von zwei berichtigten Geburtsurkunden.

In Vertretung:
SS-Hauptsturmführer und
Hauptabteilungsleiter

ANDESAMT
PERNITZ II

Lebensborn was careful with its paperwork, but most documents were later destroyed.

countries had to start as soon as possible – even if it meant that hundreds of thousands of children would be torn from their families, have a blurred identity and be placed with adoptive parents in a foreign country. The acquisition of new model citizens for the Third Reich took priority.

The organisation responsible for the project had already been established four years earlier. Lebensborn – Fount of life – was launched in December 1935. Lebensborn was launched as a welfare organisation, whose main purpose was to run the wards and maternity homes for unmarried women and their babies. The reason was not charity. Germany was facing a population crisis, as the country's population had been declining for decades. In 1900, the birth rate had been 35.8 children per thousand inhabitants; by 1933, when Hitler came to power, the figure had dropped to 14.7. If the Führer's ambition to populate the lands east of Germany with Aryans was to succeed, the trend would need reversing. In total Himmler estimated that 120 million people were needed.

On posters and in propaganda writings family life and motherhood were praised. Child support and special loans for married couples with the possibility of recompense for each new birth lured Germans to bring more children into the world. At the same time, clinics that counselled about contraception were closed and advertising contraceptives was banned. Abortion was outlawed and labelled as "sabotage against Germany's racial future".

The idea of increasing the population with large numbers of so-called racially superior children was an ingrained part of the party's thinking. "If Germany every year would have a million children and eliminate 700,000- 800,000 of the weakest, the end result would probably be an increase in strength", Hitler stated at a party meeting in 1929. "Should we succeed in establishing this Nordic race from and around Germany... and from this seedbed produce a race of 200 million, the world will belong to us", added Himmler grandly.

1904-?

NAME **MAX SOLLMANN**

TITLE LEBENSBORN LEADER

Merchant became programme director

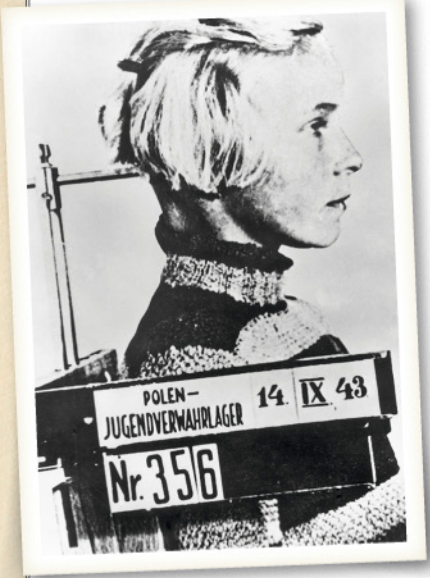
Max Sollmann was a thriving merchant who travelled to Columbia in the 1920s and built up a chain of trading houses. In 1934 he decided to return home. He'd been an avid Nazi as a young man and now decided to make a career of it. In 1940 he became head of the Lebensborn programme. After the war, Sollmann was convicted of crimes in the SS, but not for Lebensborn activities.

- **Attended Beer Hall Putsch in 1923.**
- **Retired to Bavaria.**

WOMEN WERE CHECKED THOROUGHLY

Lebensborn was an important tool in the plans for the Nazis' future, and the first home for unmarried

Kidnapped children from Yugoslavia were taken away for possible adoption in Germany.



Head shape was important in determining if Polish children could be accepted as Aryans.

pregnant women opened just a few months after the organisation was founded. Heim Hochland lay in Steinhöring, an area 30 kilometres east of Munich and had formerly housed a Catholic orphanage, but the Nazis threw the original residents out and furnished their own home for mothers and children.

The institution could initially house up to 30 mothers and 55 children, and applicants were carefully examined. Only women considered fertile by the Nazis were considered. In this way, the Board ensured that the Reich's new children had the right qualities to match the requirements of the master race.

In keeping with the beliefs about human beings and their physical characteristics, a woman's skull was measured and her head shape was examined. Only women with the sought-after elongated skull, which the Nazis believed was typical of Aryans, had a chance to be admitted. Characteristics like blonde hair and blue or green eyes were also prerequisites, while women should be disease-free and healthy too.

Those who passed the test would receive, in return, the finest care in exquisite surroundings. Homes were set up in stately houses that like Heim Hochland were often stolen. Some had belonged to Hitler's personal enemies, while others had previously been inhabited by Jews now exiled by the regime. The headquarters in Munich was also a seized house that had belonged to the anti–Nazi writer Thomas Mann.

Some homes were already decorated with abandoned furniture from residents who had been sent to concentration camps. All institutions were equipped with modern medical equipment and staffed by trained personnel.

The luxury conditions had an effect. In 1939, Gregor Ebner, Lebensborn's medical director, informed Himmler that a total of 1,300 mothers had applied for a place in one of the homes. 653 had met the race and health requirements. Births had gone extremely well: while the death rate for newborns in Germany stood at six percent, the figure for Lebensborn homes was half that. "The births are very easy, without many complications. This is attributable to the racial selection and the quality of the women we get", Ebner wrote proudly.

The costs were correspondingly high – 400 Reichsmark per mother. "That isn't much of a sacrifice if you can save a thousand children of good blood", Ebner commented.

Some children fell foul of the Nazis, however, even though the mothers had been through the acceptance process – and a cruel fate might await the infants. Ingrid von Oelhafen was raised in the Lebensborn programme and told how a little disabled boy, Jürgen Weise, was taken from his mother and to a Kinderfachabteilung – children's department – in Brandenburg near Berlin. "There he was given tranquillisers and deliberately left untended and unfed. On 6th February 1942, the little boy died: he was eight months old", reported von Oelhafen.

Jürgen was far from the only victim. At least 147 children were killed in Brandenburg Kinderfachabteilung, and historians believe many of them were products of the Lebensborn programme.

Children were raised on Nazi songs

Mothers who gave birth to healthy children were usually allowed to keep their offspring, but they had to follow the regulations at their homes. Lebensborn concerned itself with the mother's physical well-being and her political views had to be kept in check too. Therefore, for as long as they were in the home, each woman had to attend courses in ideology three times a week. During the courses the women were introduced to propaganda films, read chapters from *Mein Kampf*, heard radio lectures and participated in singing Nazi war songs.

The staff were instructed to keep a close eye on the women and report back on them: their behaviour in daily life, the mothers' courage (or lack of) during the birth, and their views of Hitler and Nazism. For this purpose, each woman was provided with a so-called RF book. RF stood for Reichsführer, and after their stay the book was sent to Himmler in Berlin. The document provided a basis for the Nazi and his officials to determine whether the woman could use

RACIAL PURITY

GOOD GERMANS SHOULD BE BRED

In the quest for Aryan children sex outside of marriage was acceptable.

1935

12TH DECEMBER

Lebensborn is founded as an organisation under the SS with its head office in Munich, a Nazi stronghold.

Lebensborn

The SS under Himmler ran the programme.

1936

AUGUST

In a letter circulated to members of the Nazi SS elite force, Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler personally encourages leaders of the organisation to become members of Lebensborn – which was initially Himmler's brainchild.

15TH AUGUST

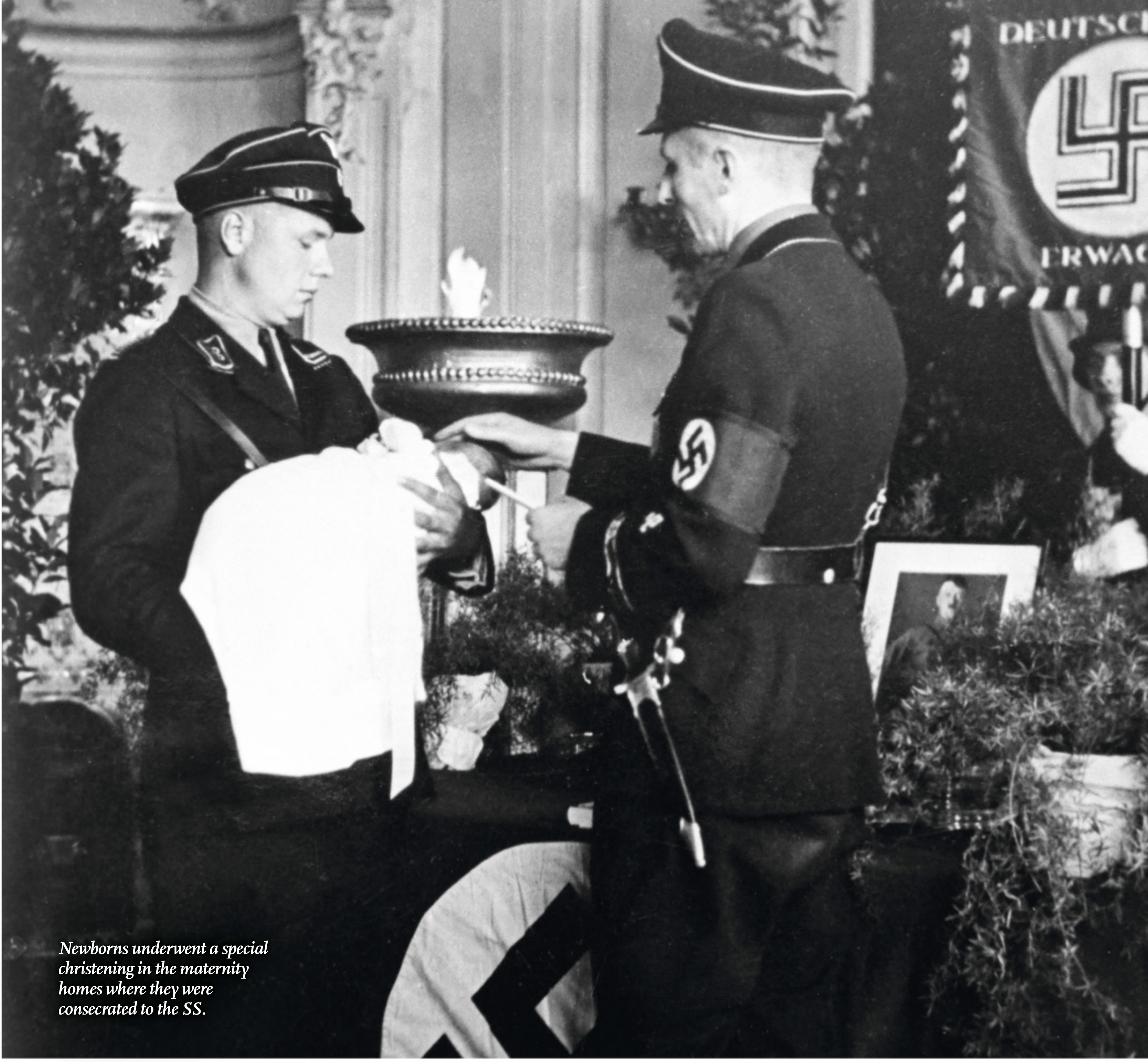
The first Lebensborn home opens in Steinhöring, a small town outside of Munich. More homes follow and about 8,000 children are born and brought up under the programme in Germany.

The home at Steinhöring near the Bavarian Alps was idyllic.

1938

SUMMER

Himmler calls on all police and SS men to have children with German women, whether they intend to marry the mother or not.



Newborns underwent a special christening in the maternity homes where they were consecrated to the SS.

1939

OCTOBER

Nazis begin to kidnap children with particularly desirable racial features – typically blonde hair and blue eyes – from occupied countries, especially Czechoslovakia and Poland. The children are adopted by German families. The Nazis then erase all traces of the kidnappings, without records historians can only guess at the number of abducted children. The highest estimate is around 250,000.

1940

MAY

Max Sollmann – one of Hitler's most loyal associates – becomes manager of Lebensborn programme.

Potential adoptive parents saw the children as commodities.

1941

AUTUMN

The first Lebensborn home opens in Norway, a country that the Nazis have chosen as suitable for participating in the programme. Then homes or offices are opened in Austria, Poland, Denmark, France, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg.

1942

10TH JUNE

Children from the town of Lidice in Czechoslovakia are kidnapped as part of the Lebensborn programme after their parents are killed in revenge for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich.

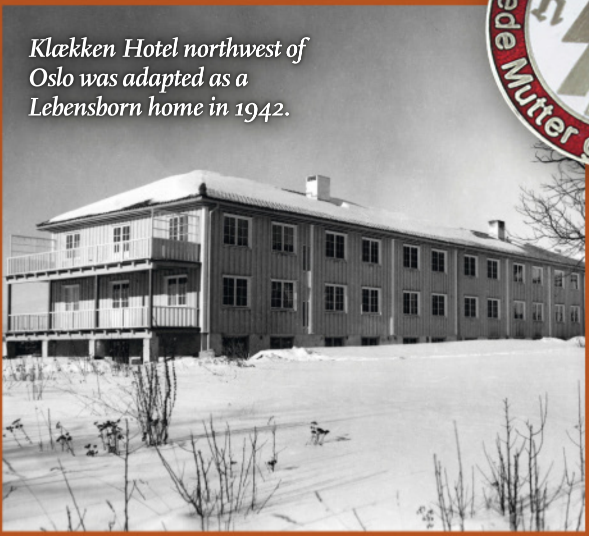
SUMMER

German soldiers are encouraged to bed women in occupied countries. The regime promises to take care of children born under these circumstances.

1945

SPRING

Allied troops liberate Lebensborn homes in Germany. Children are reunited with their birth parents only if investigators are able to determine their identity.



Klækken Hotel northwest of Oslo was adapted as a Lebensborn home in 1942.

Nazis bred in Norway

Norwegian women were thought to have good genes and the regime wanted them to have as many children as possible with German soldiers.

Nordic women with blonde hair and blue eyes were popular with the Nazis. Therefore, Norway was selected as suitable to join the Lebensborn programme. About 12,000 children with a German father and Norwegian mother were born during the occupation.

After the war, the government tried to be rid the children by sending them to Germany – unsuccessfully. An attempt to persuade Australia to buy children also went wrong, and many grew up in orphanages The perception of Lebensborn children changed by the early 1960s, but many had suffered psychological damage.

the home a second time. At the same time Himmler personally managed the situation at the homes. The Reichsführer's office issued a stream of directives, not least about diet. And here Heinrich Himmler had quite firm opinions on the subject. The chefs were carefully instructed in how vegetables should be steamed, and Himmler insisted that pregnant women were given a daily dose of cod liver oil. In addition, the Reichsführer admonished staff that all pregnant women should be forced to eat porridge. When some of the women protested, citing that it would make them fat, Himmler retorted:

"I want them to be told that Englishmen, and particularly English Lords and Ladies, are virtually brought up on this kind of food. To consume it is considered most correct. For this reason, the mothers in our homes should get used to porridge, and be taught to feed their children on it. Heil Hitler!", the Reichsführer wrote in a letter dated 12th December, 1941.

Himmler also paid regular visits to homes to keep track of how mothers and children fared. His interest even went so far that babies born on Himmler's birthday, 7th October, were declared the Reichsführer's godchildren. Each child was given a silver cup engraved with Himmler and the child's name. The homes would then follow up with reports of the godchildren's development. In one of the reports Himmler read that Ingemar Kurt, born on 7th October, 1937, "is known to be well-developed and a strong, healthy lad". Gerlinde, born on the same date two years later, had contracted severe pneumonia, but was now recovered. "Gerlinde has overcome her severe illness well and is a bright child", was the message.

Heilig soll uns sein jede Mutter guten Blutes

"Blessed for us every mother with good blood" was the motto on the Lebensborn's emblem.

Before the children left home, they all went through the rite of baptism, which served as a sort of oath of loyalty to Hitler and SS. At a table covered with a swastika flag and a bust or a photo of Hitler, the mothers promised to bring up children to be good Nazis. The mother then surrendered the child to an SS officer who gave a form of blessing. The wording was different from home to home, but the content was similar:

"We believe in the God of all things. And in the mission of our German blood. Which grows ever young from German soil. We believe in the race, carrier of the blood. And in the Führer, chosen for us by God".

Then the officer held an SS dagger over the child and read a formal initiation into SS: "We take you into our community as a limb of our body. You shall grow up in our protection and bring honour to your name, pride to your brotherhood and inextinguishable glory to your race".

Children were taken from their parents

Despite the successes, Himmler recognised that Lebensborn homes could not deliver enough children to fulfil his great German dream. Even when German-speaking people in new areas such as Sudetenland were counted, the Third Reich's population did not reach more than 79 million – far short of Himmler's target of 120 million.

To further boost population numbers the Reichsführer gave soldiers in the occupied territories orders to kidnap children with Aryan looks.

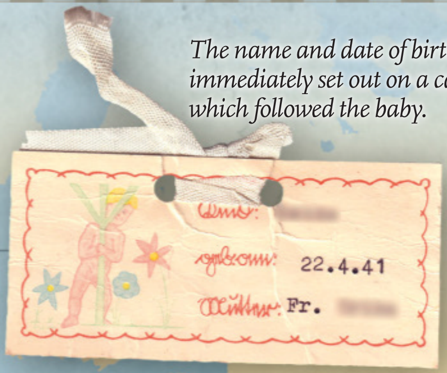
Abductions were soon part of a carefully planned policy in areas to the east, especially in Poland. Some areas in Poland were cleared to make room for German families. The children were divided in two groups: boys and girls with Slavic features were deported to the east or served as slave labour. Children with an Aryan appearance could be Germans with all the accompanying privileges. The policy resulted in a hunt for fair-haired and blue-eyed children.

"I saw children being taken from their mothers, some were even torn from the breast. It was a terrible sight: the agony of the mothers and fathers, the beating by the Germans, and the crying of the children", said an eyewitness to the kidnapping operation in the town of Zamosc in the south of Poland in 1942.

4,445 out of 30,000 children deported from the Zamosc area were found suitable for taking into the

Lebensborn spread

Soldiers in occupied countries were invited to bed local women, and the Lebensborn programme was extended so their children could be born safely. Norway had the most homes after Germany.

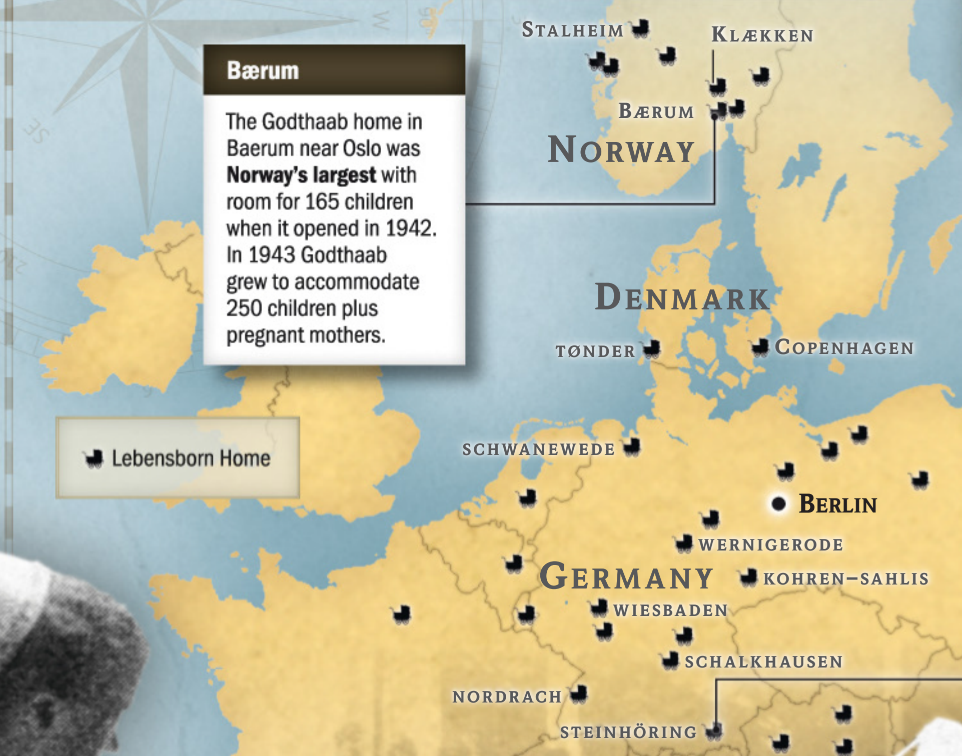


Name: [redacted]

geboren: 22.4.41

Mutter: Fr. [redacted]

The name and date of birth was immediately set out on a card, which followed the baby.


Stalheim
Klække
Bærum
Norway
Denmark
Tønder
Copenhagen
Lebensborn Home
Schwanewede
Berlin
Wernigerode
Germany
Kohren-Sahlis
Wiesbaden
Schalkhausen
Nordrach
Steinhöring

Bærum

The Godthaab home in Baerum near Oslo was **Norway's largest** with room for 165 children when it opened in 1942. In 1943 Godthaab grew to accommodate 250 children plus pregnant mothers.

Steinhöring

Hochland in Steinhöring, Bavaria opened as the **first Lebensborn home** in August 1936 and was in operation for nine years until the end of the war. Hochland served as a model for other homes.

Staff at maternity homes were always German, even in occupied countries.

Lebensborn programme. The final selection took place in what the Nazis described as Kindererziehungslager – children's training camps. Here, boys and girls were checked for diseases and tested by a psychologist; their head shape, body type, hair and eye colour were all carefully recorded.

After assessment the children were classified into one of three categories: desirable, acceptable or undesirable. Among the characteristics that sent a child into the acceptable category was a round head shape, while tuberculosis or gypsy-like features could move him or her into the undesirable list.

To be stamped undesirable was effectively a death sentence. The children were sent to the extermination camps or killed onsite. Some were transported to centres around Poland, where they were used for experiments with drugs or sedatives. The Nazis covered up the deaths through forged papers that suggested the children had died from disease or illness caused by a heart condition.

Children were offered as goods

The Nazis did everything to erase the past of those children chosen. They were usually told that their parents had died before everyone was given new, German-sounding names and sent to Germany. Here they were accommodated at a home where speaking Polish was strictly forbidden. Children who couldn't – or wouldn't – learn German, were sent back to Poland. A similar fate befell boys and girls who continued to regard themselves as Poles.

Doctors from the SS stood sorting Polish children by their appearance.

Poles shared the fate of children from many other countries, including Czechoslovakia, Slovenia and parts of the Soviet Union. One such child was Alexander Litau from the Crimea. Alexander was just one year and ten months old when German troops invaded the peninsula in 1942. With his blonde hair and blue eyes the little boy was just what the Germans wanted and one day when some SS officers saw him playing in front of his parents' house, they took him.

At first Alexander was sent to Poland, where Nazi doctors made sure he was healthy and met all racial requirements. The boy was extensively examined, so the doctors could be sure that he did not possess any "Jewish aspects".

When Alexander was approved, he was sent to the Lebensborn home – Sonnenwiese ("Sunny Meadow") in Kohren-Sahlis, Saxony. Here the boy – now named Folker – was put up for adoption along with other children.

"My first memory is of being in a room with 30 other children. I remember these people coming in, while we were lined up like pet dogs to be chosen for a new home. The people were to be my parents. They went away and came back a day later. My 'mother' apparently wanted a girl, but my 'father' wanted a boy... I laid my head on his knee and that did it for him – I was to be their son", Folker remembered.

The process was not always painless. "The Nazi-faithful foster parents... selected the children they desired, almost like products from a catalogue. If the foster parents did not like us, it was also possible to return the child. So the child was simply a product, stolen goods", Folker later said about the procedure at the home.

Bear a child for Hitler

Kidnapping and help for unmarried mothers were not the only methods used by the Nazis to increase the population. In an unofficial order sent to all members of the SS and police on 28th October, 1939, Himmler ordered the men to do their duty for the German nation by becoming fathers. It didn't matter whether they were married or not.

"Beyond the limits of bourgeois laws and conventions, which are perhaps necessary in other circumstances, it can be a noble task for German women and girls of good blood to become even outside marriage, not light-heartedly but out of a deep moral seriousness, mothers of the children of soldiers going to war of whom fate alone knows whether they will return or die for Germany", Himmler wrote.

At the same time, the Reichsführer assured the soldiers that he and his office would take care of both

FACTS

AN ARYAN'S REQUIREMENTS

- Blonde hair
- Blue or green eyes
- Tall, slender body with long legs
- No hereditary diseases

Gau Kinderheim
Bad Polzin
Lebensborn
zum
Julfest

Each Christmas, children in Lebensborn homes were given a present from the government.

mothers and children, for as long as the war lasted, or if the men fell in battle.

"SS-men and you mothers of these children... show that you are ready, through your faith in the Führer and for the sake of the life of our blood and our people, to regenerate life for Germany just as bravely as you know how to fight and die for Germany", he added.

Stories about sex within Nazi youth organisations had already circulated, but were now rekindled: the rumour was that the Lebensborn organisation facilitated sexual relations between honourable women and SS soldiers and the rumour caused an uproar.

Himmler tried to smooth things over, but only made things worse by saying that "we recommend only racially faultless men as conception assistants". Later the Reichsführer also clarified that the order obviously did not apply to the wives of police officers and soldiers. He also expressed great faith in the German women and believed he could decide himself if a potential mother had the appropriate allegiances and racial status – all without having any specific effect on the public.

NORWEGIAN WOMEN HAD PERFECT GENES

When the storm subsided, the Führer extended the Lebensborn programme to occupied countries. Here the soldiers were invited to bed local "pure" women. If the visit resulted in a pregnancy, the future mothers were invited to the Lebensborn home, where the children could be born in safety. Homes were created in France, Norway, Denmark, Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Poland.

In Norway, the programme was implemented with great zeal by the occupying power: tall, blonde Norwegian women were very close to the Nazi ideal.

But despite the efforts of both Norway and Germany, it was eventually clear that Himmler and Hitler could not win the race. The war cost far more lives than even the most productive Lebensborn home could deliver, and slowly time ran out for the Nazis' thousand-year dream.

On 1st May, 1945 US forces reached the orphanage at Steinhöring. In the buildings soldiers found 300 children aged between six months and six years. In the weeks that followed American, British and Russian soldiers encountered homes filled with children throughout Germany. In most cases, the archives had been destroyed, so the task of finding the children's origins was almost impossible.

Some children never found out that they were adopted, while others discovered their origins by chance. The boy Folker was aware that he was adopted when one of his school friends told him that he was a "bastard".

As an adult Folker Heinecke investigated his roots and after over 30 years of searching found out that he was born in the Crimea as Alexander Litau. Unlike many other Lebensborn children Folker had not suffered any trauma from his rootlessness. He was obviously angry that the Nazis conducted the Lebensborn programme, but in return he didn't blame his German adoptive family:

"I had a good upbringing after the war. They believed in Nazism at the time, but they weren't war criminals and always did right by me."

PERSPECTIVE

Children never returned home

After the war the occupying powers in Germany made a great effort to return abducted children. But the task was almost impossible.

As Allied forces approached from all sides in the war's final months, the people behind the Lebensborn programme hurried to destroy their records. Therefore, the authorities found it difficult to determine the number of children who had been taken to Germany, and which countries they came from.

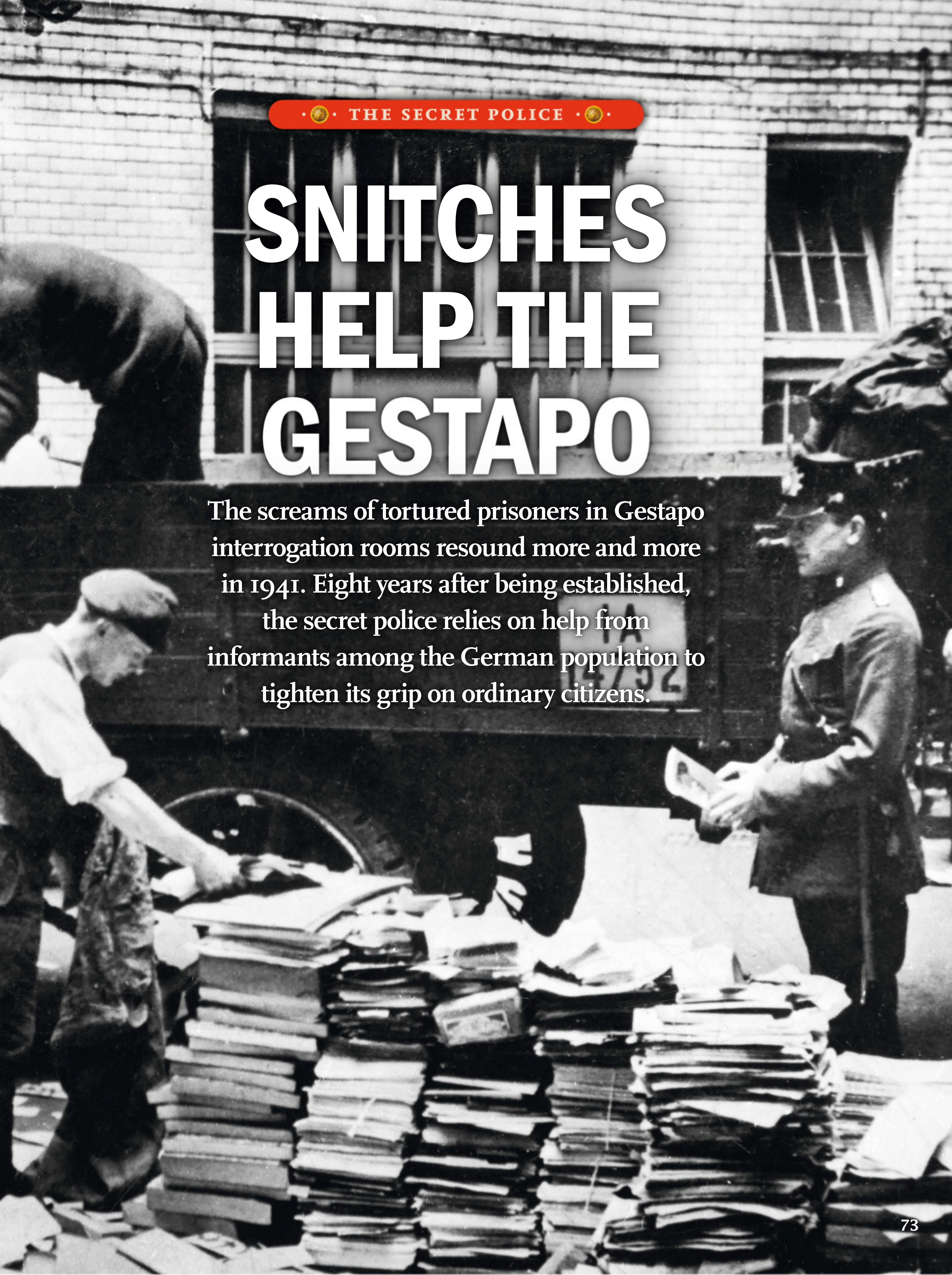
Some historians believe that around a quarter of a million children were kidnapped. The Red Cross tried to reunite children with their biological parents, but were only successful with about 25,000 children. The rest grew up as Germans.

250,000	children were kidnapped and taken to Germany, according to historians.
25,000	of the children were reunited with their families after the war.
20,000	children born in Germany and occupied countries in Lebensborn homes.

Maternity homes were child factories that would produce more German citizens.

Gestapo officers raided the Communist Party headquarters in Berlin shortly after Adolf Hitler's takeover in 1933.

1941



SNITCHES HELP THE GESTAPO

The screams of tortured prisoners in Gestapo interrogation rooms resound more and more in 1941. Eight years after being established, the secret police relies on help from informants among the German population to tighten its grip on ordinary citizens.

Germany, 1933–45

THE STAGE IS SET

Before 1945, Nazis control society from top to bottom. The state's secret police, the Gestapo, monitors the country's 66 million inhabitants with just a few thousand officers. Checks can only be maintained because people give the police a hand. Ordinary Germans voluntarily report on neighbours and family members.

Berlin
GERMANY

Helen Stuffel placed her ear against the wall and strained her senses to find out what her neighbour was up to in the apartment next door. On many nights the female tailor would sit and listen to the wall next to Peter Holdenberg's third-floor apartment in the city of Essen. As with previous nights, Stuffel was sure she could hear voices from enemy radio stations – the BBC and Radio Moscow.

The tailor was convinced that 64-year-old Holdenberg tuned into the forbidden frequencies to listen between 21.45 and midnight each evening. But to confirm her suspicions she invited two other women from next door to listen in. Her guests agreed: Peter Holdenberg was listening to radio stations banned by Hitler.

The following morning, Stuffel headed down to the local branch of the Nazi party, which quickly notified the Gestapo.

"Holdenberg is a scaremonger", she told them in a statement. She also accused him of being pro-Jewish, having allegedly heard him complain about not being able to buy items on credit after Jewish shops were closed down. Another neighbour claimed to have heard Holdenberg speak favourably of the Soviet Union.

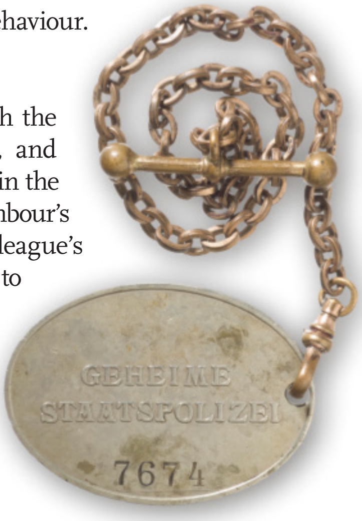
"He is very dangerous for the government", Stuffel concluded before she returned to her apartment.

On 10th December, 1941 – around a week later – the third-floor hallway suddenly filled with the sound of stomping boots that stopped outside the front door with the nameplate "Holdenberg". A hard and insistent knocking followed, but time passed before the invalided resident was able to open the door.

"Gestapo", was the officers' introduction before the men ominously informed Holdenberg that he'd been arrested on suspicion of anti-Nazi behaviour.

Hitler wanted control

In 1941 the Germans had lived with the Gestapo's tyranny for eight years, and thousands of citizens had ended up in the same situation as Holdenberg. A neighbour's quarrel, marital trouble or a colleague's jealousy could end in being reported to the secret police. Nobody wanted to fall into the clutches of the Gestapo, because a tragic fate could easily befall the poor victim.



Plainclothes Gestapo officials identified themselves by a small tag.

"It is natural that people do not want to be involved with us too much. There is no problem down to the smallest egotistical longing which the Gestapo cannot solve. Regarded in this way we are, if a joke is permitted, looked upon as a cross between a general maid and the dustbin of the Reich", said Reinhard Heydrich, head of the Reich Main Security Office, when he spoke to officers on German Police Day in February 1941.

Although the Gestapo had been the brainchild of Hermann Göring, it quickly fell under the auspices of Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler and his right-hand man Heydrich after it was established on 26th April, 1933 as they seized control of all agencies linked to national security. Himmler successfully persuaded Hitler that it was "just, opportune and necessary to pursue the enemy in the same manner throughout the Reich" – and that this persecution should be carried out with an iron fist that not only punished outright opposition to the regime, but any anti-Nazi behaviour, however small.

With its roots in the hard-hitting SS Corps, the Gestapo and Sicherheitsdienst (SD) security service would hunt down enemies of the state, including everyone from communists, socialists and Jews to ordinary Germans who spoke ill of Hitler and Nazism. The Gestapo was "the Doctor to the German national body" according to one of its chiefs, Werner Best.

The medicine consisted of the Gestapo's special powers. The police unit was placed above the law to perform as efficiently as possible. From 1936, its officers could – often

1900–?

NAME **HEINRICH MÜLLER**

TITLE CHIEF OF THE GESTAPO

Police chief vanished without a trace

During the interwar period, Heinrich Müller was an industrious police officer who gradually came to the attention of then-Gestapo chief Reinhard Heydrich. Müller rose through the ranks through Heydrich's patronage until replacing him as Chief in 1939. He was last seen in the Führerbunker the day after Hitler's suicide in April 1945, but his fate is unknown.

- **Received the Iron Cross for his actions in WWI.**
- **Joined the Nazi Party in 1939.**

BILLARD
SCHACH
SÄLE
Restaurant
CAFE SCHÖN
Die gu
Früh
M
Abe

The Gestapo carried out frequent checks on people's identity papers in the street.

Police force was departmental maze

The Gestapo was made up of many departments, and its close links to the Sicherheitsdienst (SD) security service meant the two units were hard to distinguish. At times, staff had difficulty deciding who ruled who. This overview of the security service is simplified for the sake of clarity. At the level just below the RSHA were four additional bodies, including departments for ideology and internal affairs.

Heinrich Himmler
Reichsführer

REICHSSICHERHEITSHAUPTAMT (RSHA)
Chief: Reinhard Heydrich until 1942.
The RSHA was created by Heydrich in 1939 to bring together all the agencies for the maintenance of national security under one roof, led by Heydrich himself.

Sicherheitsdienst (SD)
Chief: Reinhard Heydrich until 1942
The SD was an intelligence agency that functioned as a sister organisation to the Gestapo. SD employees were primarily concerned with counterintelligence.

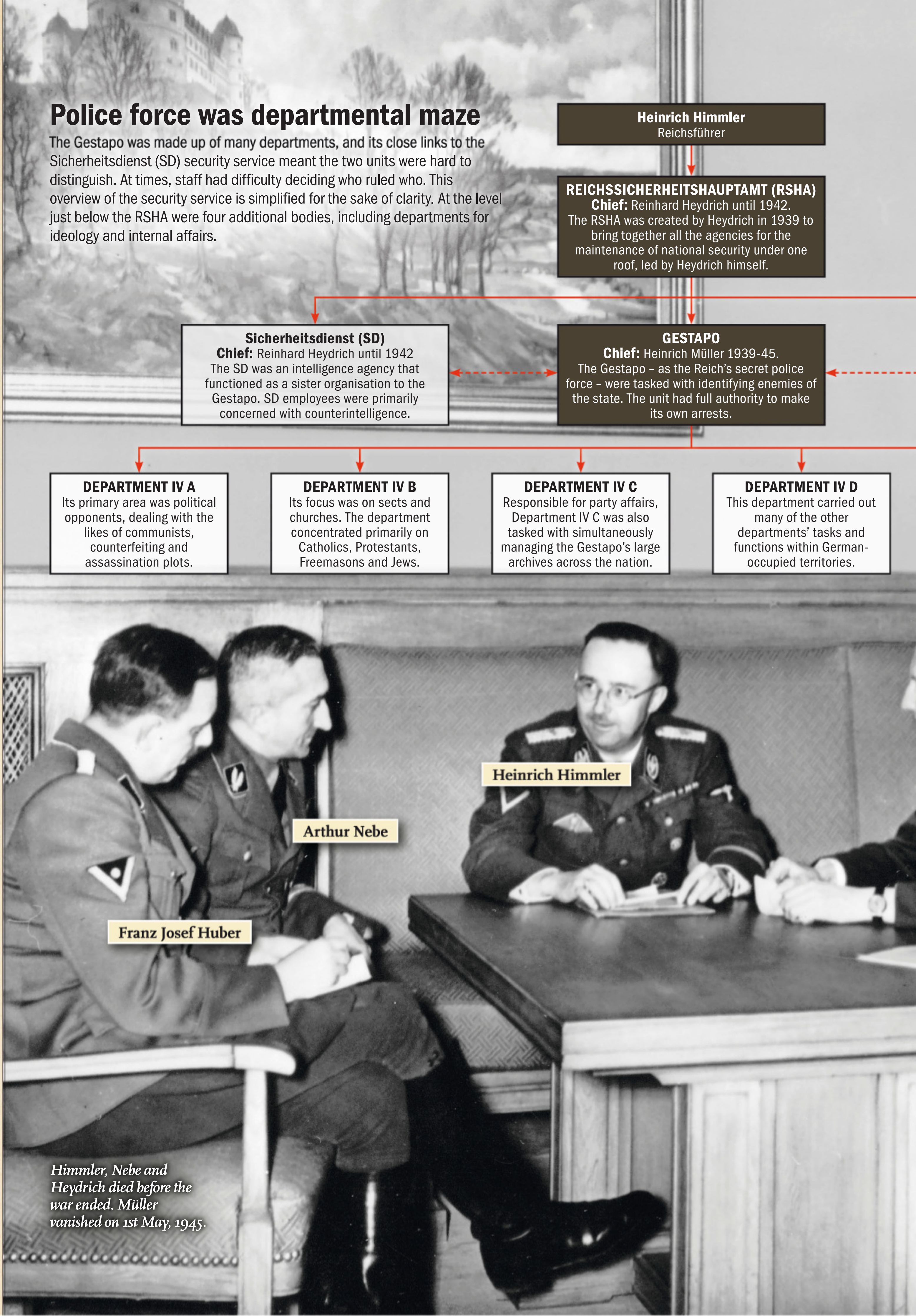
GESTAPO
Chief: Heinrich Müller 1939-45.
The Gestapo – as the Reich's secret police force – were tasked with identifying enemies of the state. The unit had full authority to make its own arrests.

DEPARTMENT IV A
Its primary area was political opponents, dealing with the likes of communists, counterfeiting and assassination plots.

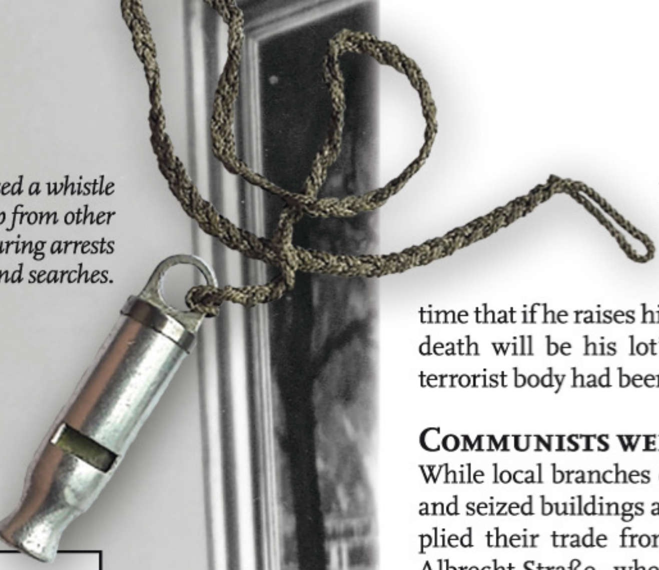
DEPARTMENT IV B
Its focus was on sects and churches. The department concentrated primarily on Catholics, Protestants, Freemasons and Jews.

DEPARTMENT IV C
Responsible for party affairs, Department IV C was also tasked with simultaneously managing the Gestapo's large archives across the nation.

DEPARTMENT IV D
This department carried out many of the other departments' tasks and functions within German-occupied territories.



Himmler, Nebe and Heydrich died before the war ended. Müller vanished on 1st May, 1945.



Gestapo agents used a whistle to call for help from other security officers during arrests and searches.

Kriminalpolizei (Kripo)
Chief: Arthur Nebe until 1944.
The criminal police unit, known as Kripo, had some ties to the Gestapo, but was independent and had the authority to make arrests in ordinary police matters.

DEPARTMENT IV E
Its area was counterintelligence and collaborated with the SD. The work targeted both Germany and other countries.

DEPARTMENT IV F
Was tasked with ensuring that no anti-Nazis or anti-Nazi material crossed the country's borders into the Third Reich.

Reinhard Heydrich
Heinrich Müller

with the assistance of the SS – arrest, imprison, torture, deport or even kill suspects without a court order.

"Every person should know for all time that if he raises his hand to strike out at the State, certain death will be his lot", announced Hitler in July 1934. A terrorist body had been born.

Communists were first in Gestapo's sights

While local branches of the Gestapo moved into town halls and seized buildings around Germany, the officers in Berlin plied their trade from gaudy headquarters in the Prinz-Albrecht-Straße, where busts of both Hitler and Göring greeted visitors in the entrance hall. It was made up of a diverse group of detectives and SS men because of its need for both desk-bound officers to keep track of the archives as well as cold-blooded rough types that could put the squeeze on and intimidate citizens.

The Gestapo's first major effort was directed against Nazism's political opponents, which initially included the Communist Party. In 1933 alone, the Gestapo arrested 60,000 communists – techniques included storming party headquarters to go through cupboards and drawers to locate a list of members.

Officers in military trucks drove out to round up enemies of the state in their homes, throwing the detainees into interrogation rooms and cells back at headquarters. By 1935, more than 200 of the Communist Party's most prominent figures had been sent to concentration camps after brutal interrogations, placed into "protective custody", as the Nazis termed it.

24 Communist leaders died during interrogation or in the camps, and the same rough treatment was extended to ordinary party members. One of the victims was 53-year-old Gotthilf Schlotterbeck who perished in the camp at Dachau. Communist families also suffered from their connection to the party. Gotthilf's son Friedrich recalled such treatment in 1945:

"The Gestapo also took away my brother Hermann... for distributing Communist leaflets. Ill-treatment by the SS consisted of beating him up, throwing him to the ground and crushing his bones by treading on him. After a few weeks they let him go, but his internal injuries were so severe that he was a hopeless cripple. He was only 14 years old".

The Gestapo's brutal treatment of political enemies and their families was a deliberate tactic to suppress dissent and dissuade other Germans from involving themselves in politics outside of the Nazi party. The police force frequently called in children and young people who'd been associated with Communist or SPD (Social Democrat) parties to remind them that Nazism was the only way forward. Its regular checks also took in Friedrich Schlotterbeck's disabled little brother, Hermann:

"The Gestapo intended that he should not recover, and they made sure of that by never letting him alone. Every time he paid his compulsory visit to their headquarters for 'social welfare education' they beat him up all over again", wrote Friedrich, the only one of five members of his family to survive the war.

Gestapo officers appeared to be omnipresent to the Schlotterbeck family, but in fact the secret police force wasn't that large. The Gestapo started out with around 1,000 employees, but while its numbers grew continuously

The Gestapo found the Communist Party's membership lists during a search in 1933.

until there were around 31,000 in 1944, it was still a small force given that it existed to keep tabs on Germany's population of 66 million. Its employees received help from both volunteers and involuntary forces to such an extent that the Gestapo's archives were already bulging with folders in 1939. Two million personal index cards lay in endless rows of grey archives found in Prinz-Albrecht-Straße and all Gestapo buildings around the country.

SECRET POLICE MONITORED BUILDINGS

The organisation's most valuable helpers included so-called Block Leaders ("Blockleiter") and Block Wardens – Nazi party members who kept an eye on everything within their block or neighbourhood. These Gestapo henchmen recorded families and individuals who – for example – did not display the Nazi flag or failed to participate in Nazi parades. The residents knew both their block leader's identity and the consequences of talking in the company of people who ran Nazi errands. Unguarded opinions could easily lead to the creation of a personal file within the Gestapo's archives.

"We never knew when our Block Leader would come nosing around. We only knew that sooner or later he would", said one Berliner after the war.

In the summer of 1942, one of Berlin's Block Leaders, Max Reich, spotted some graffiti in a toilet that said: "Hitler [the] mass murderer has to be murdered to end the war". Reich began to keep a close eye on the place, and two months later uncovered the perpetrator – a 73-year-old pensioner – as he again started to write with chalk. Reich promptly reported the incident to the Gestapo, and the chalk lines cost the older man his life.

Block Leaders were like an infection in the bloodstream of anti-Nazi underground circles, making it difficult for opponents of the regime to stay off the Gestapo's radar.

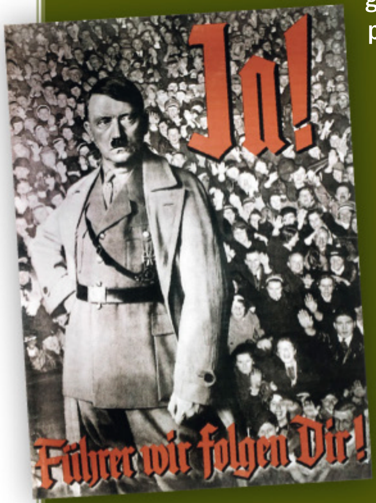
"The supervision is now so well organised that members of the illegal [resistance] movement can hardly meet in people's flats anymore. Every staircase now has an informer", an underground SPD agent said while warning anti-Nazi friends about the Block Leader's role. "He is supposed to talk to housewives about prices and food shortages, he pushes into people's homes, he is supposed to find out about what newspapers people read, what their lifestyle is like... Effectively, every tenant is visited at least once a week by one of these Block Leaders and is pumped by him".

Life on the left of the political spectrum was more dangerous because the Gestapo

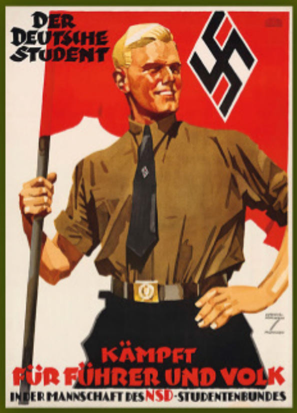
Posters painted the world in black and white

The Gestapo's heavy-handed methods were not the only tool Nazis used to manage and control the population. Effective propaganda methods were also put into use to bolster support for Hitler. Posters displayed understandable messages portraying the Nazi regime as a world of friends and enemies.

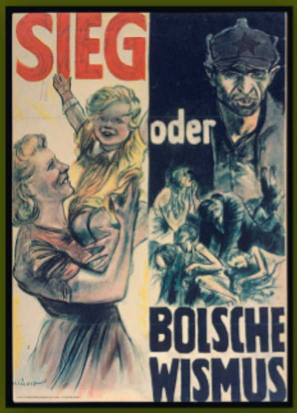
Hitler had already revealed in *Mein Kampf* in the mid-1920s how the Nazis would later use propaganda to generate support among Germans. The Führer wrote among other things, that propaganda should be adapted to the least gifted among the German population. In other words: everyone should be able to understand its meaning. Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels delivered the goods when Hitler came to power, dividing the world into good and evil so that even children understood the message. Film, radio spots and posters continually depicted German Aryans as beautiful and good, while Jews and Communists were ugly and evil.



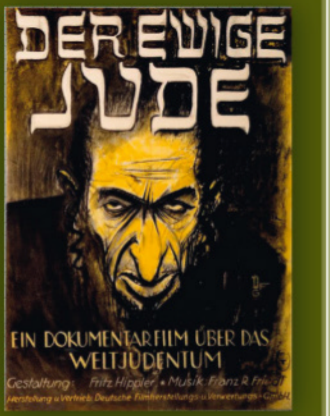
With the slogan "Führer, we follow you", Nazi political posters claimed Hitler had the backing of all the people.


Der Deutsche Student
Kämpft für Führer und Volk
In der Mannschaft des NSD-Studentenbundes

Young, blonde people were portrayed as the ideal that would secure Germany a glorious future.



Communist darkness and misery to Nazi light and harmony was a familiar theme in the Third Reich.


Der ewige Jude
Ein Dokumentarfilm über das Weltjudentum
Gestaltung: Fritz Hippler • Musik: Franz R. Friedl
Herstellung u. Vertrieb: Deutsche Filmherstellungs- u. Verwertungs-GmbH

In the film "The Eternal Jew", the Nazis portrayed Jews as parasites and a morally depraved people.

often tried to tempt arrested Communist and SPD members into becoming informants. A brutal interrogation and deportation to a KZ camp could be avoided if the detainees chose to spy for the Gestapo. Following their release, many of the regime's former enemies returned to their underground movements to report continuously back to the secret police.

The same methods of extortion were used on other Nazi opponents. For example, Hitler was suspicious of the church, where many priests struggled to harmonise biblical messages with Nazi methods. In the city of Aachen alone, the Gestapo persuaded three priests and two monks to become spies. These clergy informants were tasked with reporting on colleagues who preached anti-Nazi messages or helped Jews.

The problem was, however, that the informant – whether within the church or in the political environment – was living on borrowed time. Once the regime had no more need of their information, snitches often took a bullet to the head or found themselves on a train or truck bound for a concentration camp.

DRUNK TALK COST DEARLY

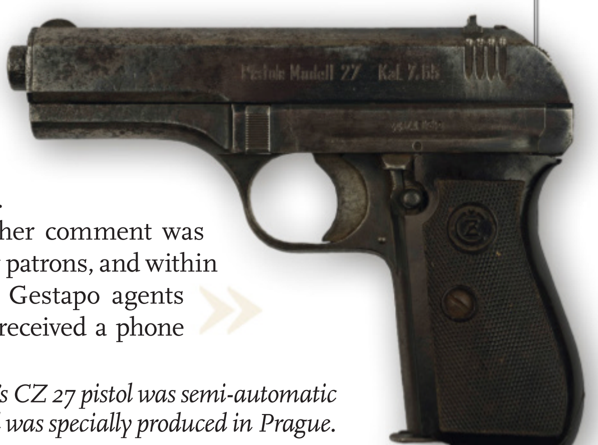
The Gestapo's main source of information about state enemies were neither spies within the church nor the political underground movement, but ordinary citizens like Mrs Stuffel in Essen who were keen to spy on their neighbours.

The Germans had been bombarded with propaganda throughout the 1930s about the cult of Hitler and evils of anti-Nazism. Informing on people who were allegedly rebelling against the Nazi regime was therefore completely consistent with the mood and culture of the Third Reich. More than one in four cases on the Gestapo's desk originated from ordinary Germans accusing others of anti-Nazi behaviour, and citizens didn't confine themselves to reporting on neighbours, colleagues, friends or family members.

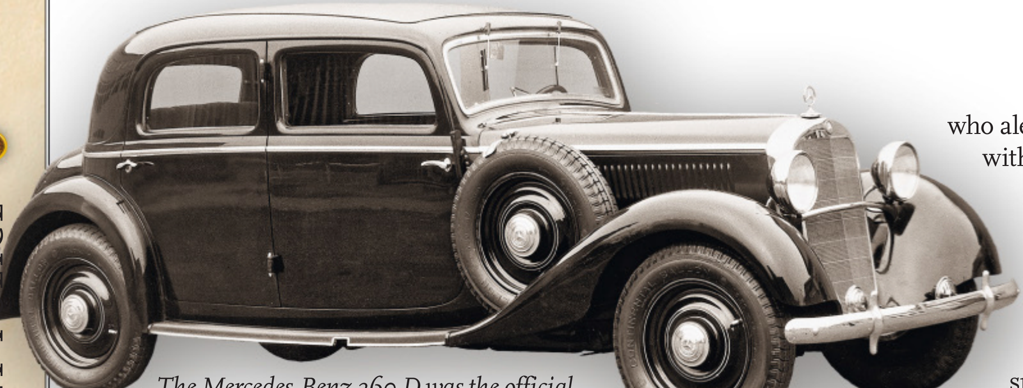
A typical informant came from the lower middle classes, while educated Germans rarely felt the need to report their countrymen. In principle, however, no one could feel safe making a joke about Hitler, never mind speak badly about the regime and the war.

A 64-year-old woman from the Rhineland experienced this first-hand while in a café with two friends in July 1938. "Mussolini has more political sense in one of his boots than Hitler has in his brain", she exclaimed merrily.

Unfortunately, her comment was overheard by other patrons, and within five minutes two Gestapo agents appeared. They'd received a phone



The Gestapo's CZ 27 pistol was semi-automatic and was specially produced in Prague.



The Mercedes-Benz 260 D was the official Gestapo car, and its top speed of 95 km/h could bring officers quickly to the scene.

call about her remark and took her immediately for questioning. The café patron was, however, far from the only one arrested for offering anti-Nazi opinions during or after visits to drinking establishments.

In April 1935, a drunken Karl Feedler from Oberhausen claimed that in 1933 a group of SS men had set fire to the Berlin Reichstag – and not the Dutch communist Marinus van der Lubber who was convicted and executed for the crime. His comments were picked up by another customer at the bar who alerted the Gestapo – Feedler was punished with a two-year prison sentence.

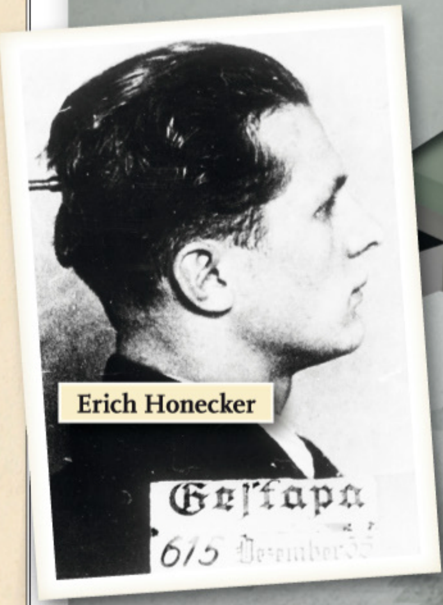
A lorry driver also faced a trip to jail in 1941 when, after drinking beer, he allowed his mouth to run away with him: "I tell you, we're buggered, just like in 1914/18... We're going to lose this war just like we lost the last one", he yelled and ended up spending months in "protective custody".

Even within their own four walls, Germans couldn't always feel safe. Many wives took advantage of the informant culture to get back at unfaithful husbands – a tip-off to the Gestapo could lead to officers quickly removing the man from home. Terrible family disputes arose when sons became ardent supporters of the Führer through membership of the Hitler Youth and other Nazi groups, and felt their parents weren't backing the dictator to the same degree. In Dresden, a father and son repeatedly came to blows because the latter sold Hitler's *Mein*

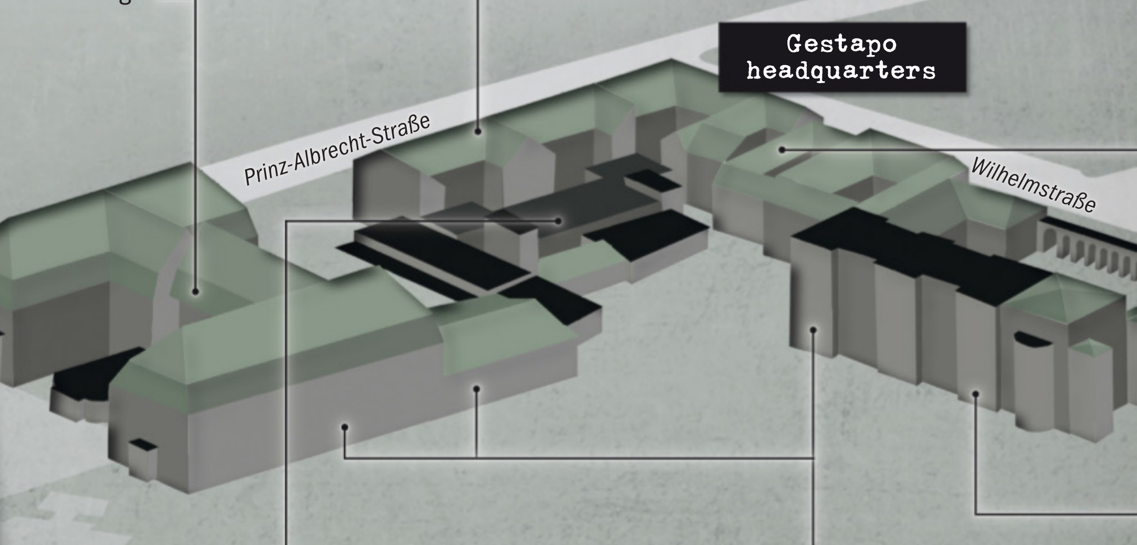
BUILDING

Terror agencies were based in Berlin

All the major Nazi security units shared their headquarters in a complex in Prinz-Albrecht-Straße and Wilhelmstraße in Berlin, where more than 15,000 prisoners passed through from 1939 to 1945.



Communist Erich Honecker was imprisoned in Gestapo headquarters for a time.



The Entrance Hall in the RSHA and Gestapo headquarters was adorned with busts of Hitler and Göring as well as swastika flags.

The headquarters of the SS, where Heinrich Himmler also had his private office.

39 isolation cells and a common cell for 11 prisoners were arranged in the basement. Fire-heated warm air was blown into the cells, which had almost no ventilation, to break the prisoners.

Interrogation rooms were dotted around the buildings. Torture devices were installed in a number of rooms.

Kampf. "[They] kept poking into each other's business and then the son said that he was going to denounce him to the authorities. [Soon afterward] the father shot himself", said Gertrud Sombart, who grew up in the same area.

Sombart was just a teenager when Hitler came to power, and clearly felt the tension of the dictatorship. To generate fear and control the populace, the police organisation made sure to publish sentences against state enemies in the newspapers, so no one was left in any doubt about the price for defying the regime. In the Sombart family, where the father was not a Hitler supporter, fear became a constant:

"You always had to be afraid because my father was somewhat careless. My mother had the most fear and she would say, 'Keep your mouth shut and be quiet.' My father liked to talk. But when he knew that someone could be dangerous to him, then he wouldn't say anything", Sombart recalled. She also remembered how the family sat and listened to the BBC after the war had begun, despite the fact it was strictly illegal:

"You had to set the volume really low, and it was best to cover it with something. And you were not supposed to tell anyone about this, because there was a guy who had listened to an enemy radio station and it had been overheard and they killed him". The Gestapo arrested 2,197 Germans for listening to foreign radio stations in the first half of 1940 alone, but the Sombart family was never exposed. Peter Holdenberg from Essen wasn't so lucky. His neighbour Helen Stuffel had informed on him in late 1941, and the 64-year-old pensioner found himself sitting nervously on a chair in front of a Gestapo employee as he listened to accusations of listening to enemy radio, friendship towards Jews and being sympathetic to communism.

Interrogations ended in crushed bones

"This is all a conspiracy. I've had trouble with Stuffel in the past", Holdenberg explained to the interrogator, assuring him that the charges were "foolish gossip".

The old man was, however, fighting a losing battle as the police – as with all cases of this kind – had done their homework. After receiving Stuffel's complaint, the Gestapo interviewed other parties in the case to give them a proper basis on which to assess the case. Throughout the 1930s the secret police had received a bunch of accusations based on jealousy or hatred, most of which attempted to benefit the informer by bringing the accused into disrepute.

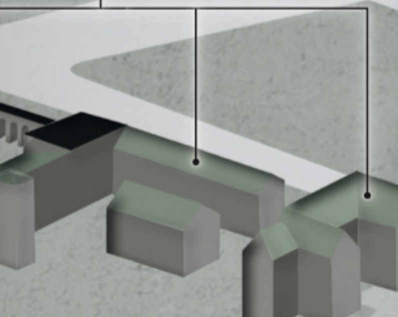
The officers had approached Holdenberg's cleaner, who denied that her employer was anti-Nazi – the man had certainly never listened to the radio while she was in his apartment. The Gestapo officers believed, however, that the woman was helping Holdenberg. Their suspicions were fuelled by three other testimonies that supported Stuffel's accusation.

Holdenberg continued to profess his innocence, however, and said he'd lived a quiet and secluded life since becoming invalided in 1935. The interviewer refused to believe this assertion proved Holdenberg's innocence and informed him the case was in no way complete. Citizens caught listening to the BBC could be punished by up to 18 months in prison he told Holdenberg before he was led to a cell.

The pensioner's case was one of many across the country where the Gestapo made good use of the cells in its headquarters, as investigations could take many weeks. The lengthy stay in a dank prison was just one of many methods used to break prisoners. Another technique was to beat and kick the accused as soon as they arrived in the interrogation room. The trauma of a beating helped loosen suspects' tongues.

Gestapo methods, however, varied depending on the crime the prisoners were charged with. When the case didn't involve an enemy of the state who'd actively tried to undermine Nazism, then blows from fists or weapons were rarely implemented. The charges against Holdenberg fell into this category.

On the other hand, beatings and torture were a major component of Gestapo interrogation methods when officers and the SS questioned political enemies, unionists and members of small opposition organisations – basically



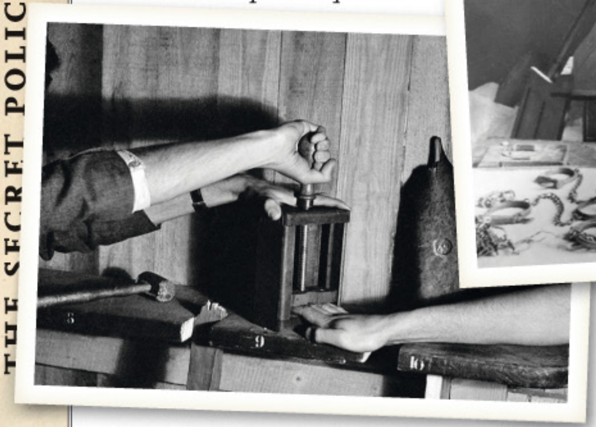
Additional offices were required in 1935 because both the Gestapo and SS increased the number of employees in their headquarters. The offices were furnished in adjacent buildings facing Wilhelmstraße.

Headquarters of the Security Service, SD, in which its chief Reinhard Heydrich established his personal office in 1941.

Busts of both Adolf Hitler and Hermann Göring stood along the walls of the Gestapo headquarters.

The Gestapo headquarters was housed in the former Museum of Decorative Arts.

During the capture of Berlin, Russians found leg irons and handcuffs in the Gestapo headquarters.



Torturers could crush an unlucky prisoner's fingers in a vice.

people who could give up the anti-Nazi plans and activities of other Germans.

Sometimes officers would shackle a prisoner's hands behind his back, place a hook in the handcuffs and hoist the victim up and down to dislocate his arms. In addition, torturers could also administer electric shocks through electrodes placed on the hands, feet and ears. If the prisoner still refused to speak, the Gestapo could put electrodes up the anus or on the tip of the prisoner's penis.

Waterboarding and crushing of testicles and fingers were also part of the Gestapo's repertoire. Officers were also able to open windows in the interrogation rooms, so the screams of torture victims rang out in the prison yard to deter new prisoners.

Interviewers also demonstrated great creativity. Prisoner Johann Georg Elser, who'd attempted to kill Hitler with a bomb in November 1939, was exposed to sophisticated methods of interrogation at the Gestapo headquarters in the Prinz-Albrecht-Straße in Berlin.

"Elser was just a shell of his former self because they had tried to squeeze information out of him by feeding him very salty herring and exposing him to heat, and then depriving him of liquids", reported Arthur Nebe, Chief of the Kripo. During his mistreatment, Elser stuck to his story of having acted alone. Gestapo chief Heinrich Müller believed, however, that others had to have been involved in the plot, and tried to get the torturers to try different methods: "Have him hypnotised, give him drugs; make use of everything of this nature our scientists have tried", said Hitler's order, but the prisoner would not alter his statements. After 14 months of interrogation, Elser was sent to the KZ camp at Sachsenhausen and was later transferred to Dachau, where he was executed in April 1945.

Although Germany was in ruins, the Gestapo machinery carried on to the last.

Terror ended after 12 years

In the final year of the war, masses of bombs were dropped on Berlin and in February 1945 the Gestapo headquarters in Prinz-Albrecht-Straße was heavily damaged. Yet the Nazis continued their hunt for enemies of the state, filling the interrogation rooms and prison cells.

In late April, the headquarters was left without water and electricity thanks to Russian shelling with tanks and guns. On the night of 23rd-24th April, Müller realised it was time to kill off the Gestapo. Most inmates were dragged from their cells and executed in a back yard, so when Soviet forces arrived at Prinz-Albrecht-Straße only six prisoners were still alive.

The secret police had been a great success when viewed through Nazi eyes. With few resources and only 31,000 paid employees at its height in 1944, the organisation had managed to keep political opponents in check. There are no precise figures for Gestapo arrests – partly because the archives went up in flames, destroyed by the invading forces – and so no one knows just how many the Gestapo tortured and executed. But hundreds of thousands were probably subject to interrogation and millions were registered in the archives – numbers the secret police could never have attained if ordinary citizens hadn't turned informers.

In addition, the Gestapo's heavy-handed treatment of state enemies helped weaken resistance to the regime. Torture, imprisonment and humiliation sapped most Germans' taste for rebellion.

On the evening of 10th December, 1941, Peter Holdenberg was placed in a cell. The interview with the Gestapo was so traumatic that the old man could see only one way out. When the prison guards opened the cell door the following morning, Holdenberg hung from a loop in the ceiling. Although the prisoner had desperately tried to hang himself, he was still alive. Later, the 64-year-old man died in hospital without ever regaining consciousness.

Had Holdenberg really listened to enemy radio stations? The truth was never discovered with any certainty.

Johann Georg Elser explained during interrogation how he'd attempted to assassinate Adolf Hitler.

Johann Georg Elser

Officers continued to work during Cold War

Top-ranking officials aside, the Allies didn't punish many Gestapo agents for the organisation's atrocities in Nazi Germany. Several former employees even found positions in police units and intelligence services during the Cold War.

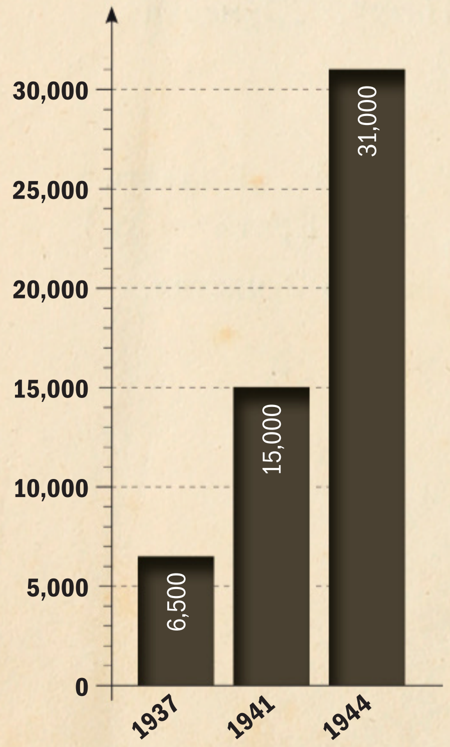
Sicherheitspolizei
Geheime Staatspolizei
Grenzpolizeiposten

The Gestapo's remit also included protecting Germany's borders.

Employee numbers rose quickly

The number of Gestapo officials rose dramatically between 1933-45. Most officers were recruited from the Weimar Republic's police forces, but the Gestapo also employed members of the SS, SA and Nazi party.

Gestapo Employees 1937-1944

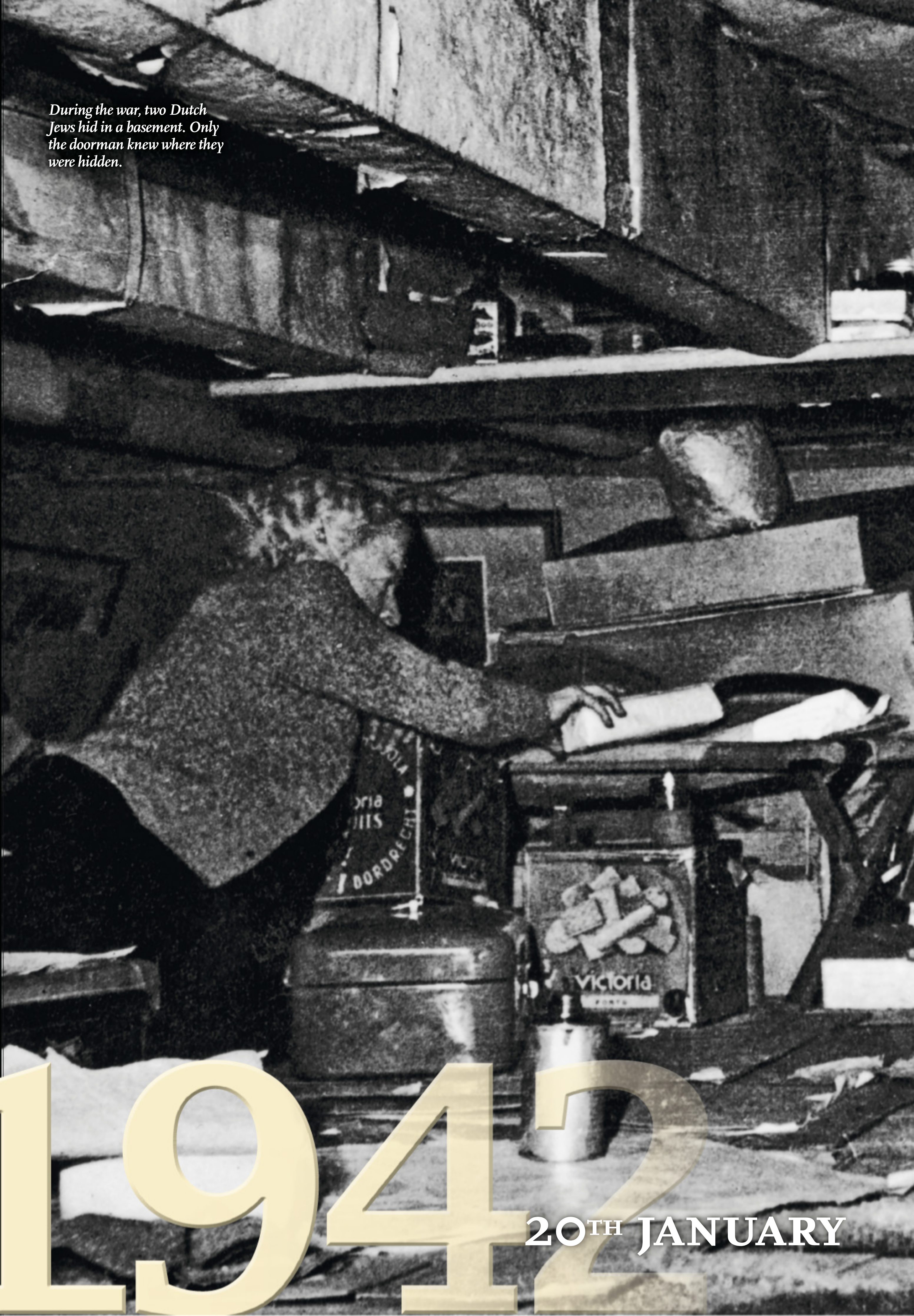


Gestapo executioners got off lightly

When the Allies defeated Nazi Germany, they went hunting for Nazis. But unlike those Gestapo serving abroad, many employees in Germany escaped with prison sentences of under three years while others went completely free. The Allies struggled to determine responsibility in the complex Gestapo system. Some former officers continued police careers in West or East Germany, and several even later received honours from the state in recognition of faithful service. Gestapo officers who were experts in surveillance and counterintelligence also used their skills as agents of the West and East German intelligence units.

When the war ended, thousands of Gestapo agents were detained, but many avoided punishment.

Nazi officials were forced to bury executed Gestapo prisoners after the war.


DORDRECHT
victoria

During the war, two Dutch Jews hid in a basement. Only the doorman knew where they were hidden.

1942

20TH JANUARY

DEADLY HIDE AND SEEK

JEWISH PEOPLE IN HIDING SURVIVE THE HOLOCAUST

While the Nazis are systematically killing millions of Jewish civilians in the Third Reich, a few manage to cheat death. But it requires sacrifice. Women must pay for a place to sleep with sex, gnawing hunger is a basic condition for all, and if their luck runs out, death is the result.

Germany, 1942

THE STAGE IS SET

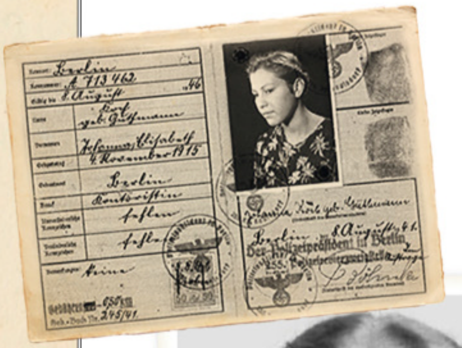
The Third Reich's top leaders meet at the Wannsee Conference in January to lay out their plan for the Holocaust. Jews receive letters with orders to go to train stations while the Gestapo chases escapees. Trains packed with Jews rush toward the death camps, where Zyklon B gas will murder prisoners in their millions.

The clock read 06.00 in Berlin on 22nd June, 1942 when there was a knock on the door of Mrs Jacobsohn's home. A plain-clothes man from the Gestapo wished to talk to her young lodger. Shortly after, he stood by the bed in the sleeping 20-year-old woman's room. Her name was Marie Jalowicz, and she was Jewish.

"Get dressed and ready to go out. We want to ask you some questions. It won't take long and you'll be back in a couple of hours", he said. Within a second Marie was wide awake. She thought quickly and pretended to be naïve and gullible.

"But questions like that, they could take hours... Can I get a bite to eat?" she said with a smile, before asking to nip downstairs to her neighbour's for some bread. "I can't run away from you dressed just in a petticoat, can I?" She added.

On the way out of the door, Marie grabbed her handbag and purse. The young Jewish woman had no intention of sating her hunger. She would flee as quickly as possible. She knew the Gestapo always worked in pairs. Down in the hallway the other man waited by the entrance. Marie swiftly switched personas to that of a jovial mother whose young son had accidentally shut her out. Under the pretext of having to pick up a key from her mother-in-law in a neighbouring block, the young women flirted briefly with the Gestapo agent who with a dirty laugh slapped her backside as she walked out the front door of SchmidStraße in Berlin's Kreuzberg district. Marie Jalowicz had cheated the Nazis and saved her own life – and it wouldn't be the last time...

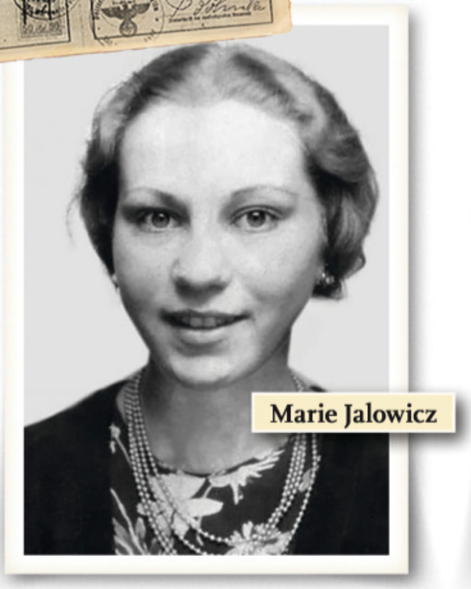


Jew Marie Jalowicz procured false identity papers to become Aryan Johanna Koch.

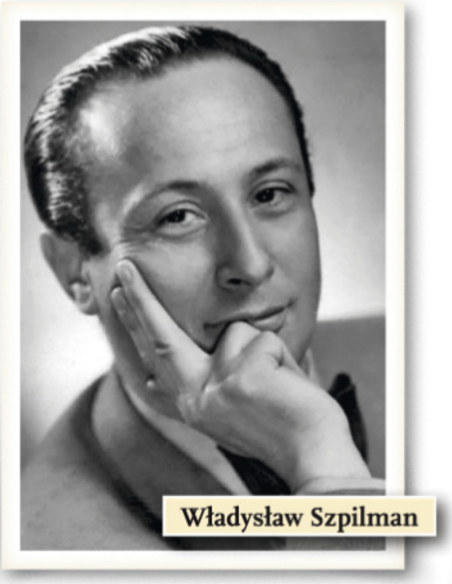
Star of David was a curse

The Nuremberg Laws of 1935 had transformed the lives of German Jews into a living hell. The country's new underclass found themselves deprived of almost all their rights, had forced labour as their only source of income and had to wear a yellow Star of David on their chest to signify they were Jewish. Attempts to hide the star led to immediate deportation. Completely removing it was punishable by execution on the spot.

Marie's desire for freedom, coupled with the knowledge that the alternative was deportation to an extermination or labour camp, made her inventive. She'd realised she would need a versatile identity and be able to switch roles as required – as with her first meeting with the Gestapo. She hid a threaded needle in her jacket lining that – coupled with a few loose stitches in the star – allowed Marie to either remove the Jewish star or sew the



The German survived the war by lying to the Gestapo, obtaining false ID and constantly changing where she stayed.



An officer recognised the famous Polish pianist and pulled him from the train that led to the Treblinka KZ camp.

While Edith was a Jew, she had married a Nazi officer for love. She hid her identity until he proposed.

German soldiers rounded up Jewish men on the streets or in ghettos, then transported the prisoners to labour camps.

flap in seconds. Marie only carried the yellow stigma in areas where people knew her and would wonder why the star was missing. During searches of residences in places further away and with people she trusted, Marie took the star off.

Good contacts and friendships were vital. During her time in forced labour, where she turned nuts and screws for the armaments industry with 200 other Jewish women, Marie made use of her charm and winning personality. Quitting was banned, but Marie persuaded a foreman to fire her because of illness. Her freedom was short-lived: after a few weeks she was instead forced to work at a spinning mill.

Again, Marie was dismissed, this time by playing dumb with a fictional nervous disorder. The medical certificate was issued by a German doctor who sympathised with the Jews.

SAVED BY A PEN STROKE

The first packed cattle trucks containing Jews left Germany's train stations in autumn 1941, departing eastward. The notice of deportation was delivered by registered mail, and if Jews didn't show up for their scheduled departure, the Nazi's secret police, the Gestapo, investigated.

The first time, Marie had successfully run away, but the Nazi state tried again. The postman rang the doorbell while she was alone in the house. He handed her a registered letter for another Jewish lodger.

"He isn't here. He's been taken away", Marie said. The postman noted: "Gone east, no known address". He had another letter, addressed to Miss Jalowicz. "Then you'd better put the same on it. Gone east, no known address", she exclaimed quickly.

With a single pen stroke, Marie Jalowicz had been deleted from employment agency's records – and perhaps she'd be removed from other authorities' lists too. Happiness gave Marie hope of survival – at least in the short term.

The Jewish woman took another step using her friend Johanna Koch's personal papers. She falsified a Kennkarte (basic identity document) using an ink-dissolving agent and hand-written stamp. A new photo was clipped and Marie was suddenly Aryan. She could now discard the yellow star for good.

> **"Get dressed… We want to ask you some questions. It won't take long"**
>
> Gestapo agent to Marie Jalowicz

"My picture is in the files of the Gestapo in Vienna!"

Edith Hahn to boyfriend Werner Vetter, an officer in the Wehrmacht

Thus Marie Jalowicz became a member of a small group of undesirable people who went underground with a fake identity.

These hidden Jews were known as "submarines", their daily lives lived invisibly, always looking for the next safe haven. Despite a miserable life of fear and hunger, 1,600 of Berlin's 160,000 Jewish population survived in perpetual flight for 10 years from the Nuremberg Laws in 1935 to the end of the war and the final collapse of the Nazi regime in May 1945.

Marie aborted unwanted child

People's hospitality was not always free, and Marie became pregnant as a result of one of the countless times she had to give into men's demands for sex in exchange for keeping her hidden. Although abortion was illegal, Marie bribed a doctor to prescribe medications that set the termination in progress.

On an allotment outside Berlin, Marie aborted sitting on a tin pail. The foetus was buried, wrapped in newspaper under a plum tree. Despite the physical pain, Marie did not mourn her lost child. She would herself live and couldn't possibly care for an infant. Marie didn't have enough food for herself, and an uncontrollable baby's crying didn't fit with a life in hiding. Termination was the only way out for a fugitive who could not escape from Nazi Germany.

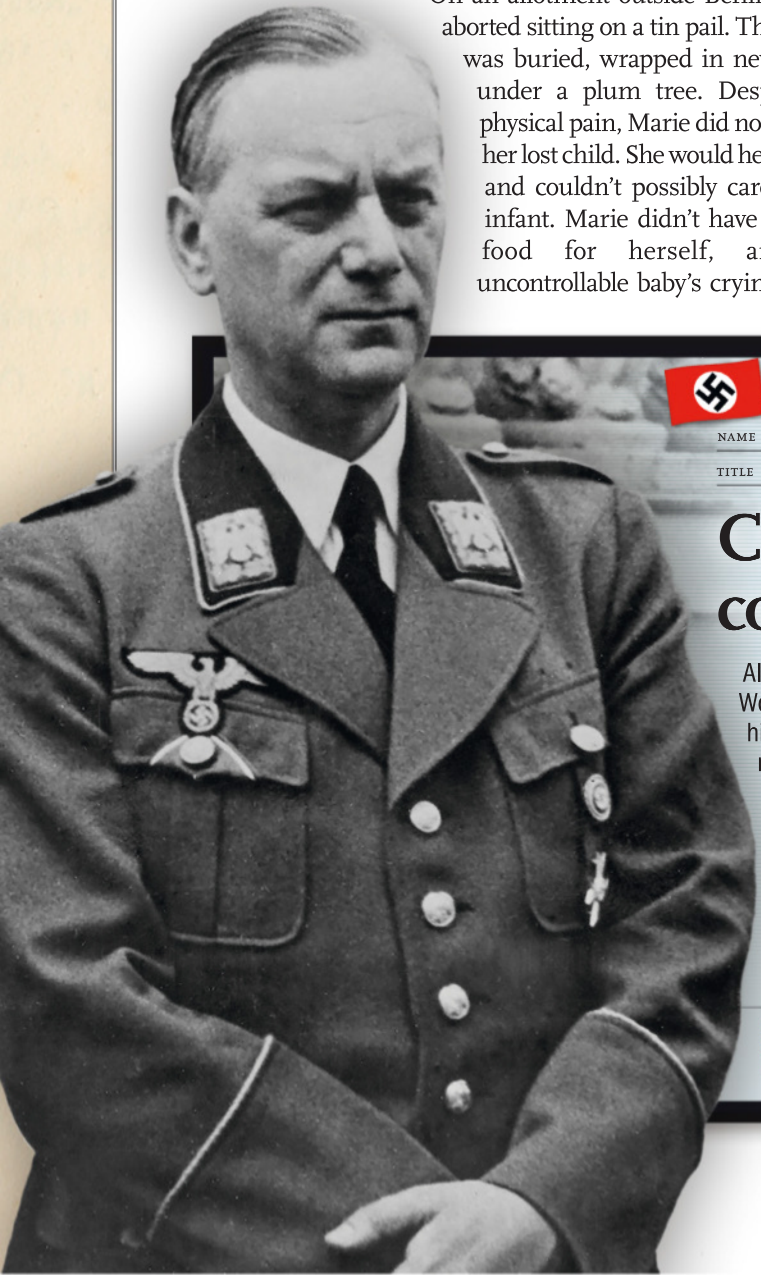
Jewish woman married Nazi officer

Austrian-born Edith Hahn's road to survival was through love. In 1939 she was forced into Vienna's Jewish ghetto. After a few years of forced agricultural labour followed by work at a plant in Germany, Edith was lucky enough to change her identity. A Christian friend gave her copies of his birth certificate and student card, on which she forged the name Grete Denner.

On paper Edith Hahn was now an Aryan and in 1942 travelled to Munich aged 18, where she volunteered as a nurse for the Red Cross and began a new life outside the Nazi spotlight. Here she met German officer Werner Vetter. The pair became lovers, but the relationship almost ended when Vetter proposed marriage after Edith had become pregnant. She demurred, on the pretext that people shouldn't marry in times of war.

"I love you. I must have you", Werner protested to the woman he knew as Grete. "I cannot marry you because I am Jewish!" Edith whispered. "My papers are false! My picture is in the files of the Gestapo in Vienna!"

Love triumphed over racial segregation, and Werner kept her secret, but when Edith was about to give birth to the couple's child on 9th April, 1944 her will to survive was again put to the test. Her experience on the maternity ward



1893-1946

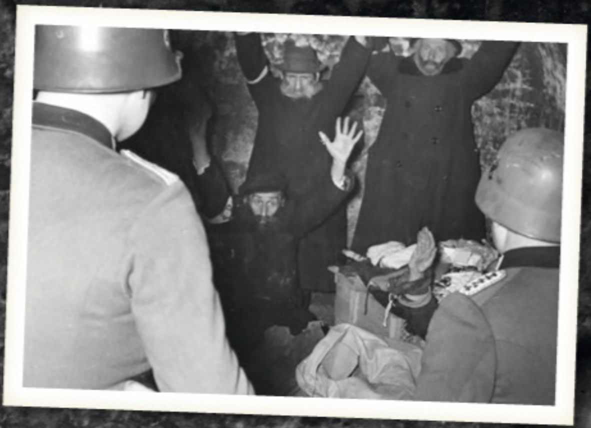
NAME **ALFRED ROSENBERG**

TITLE REICH MINISTER FOR THE OCCUPIED EASTERN TERRITORIES

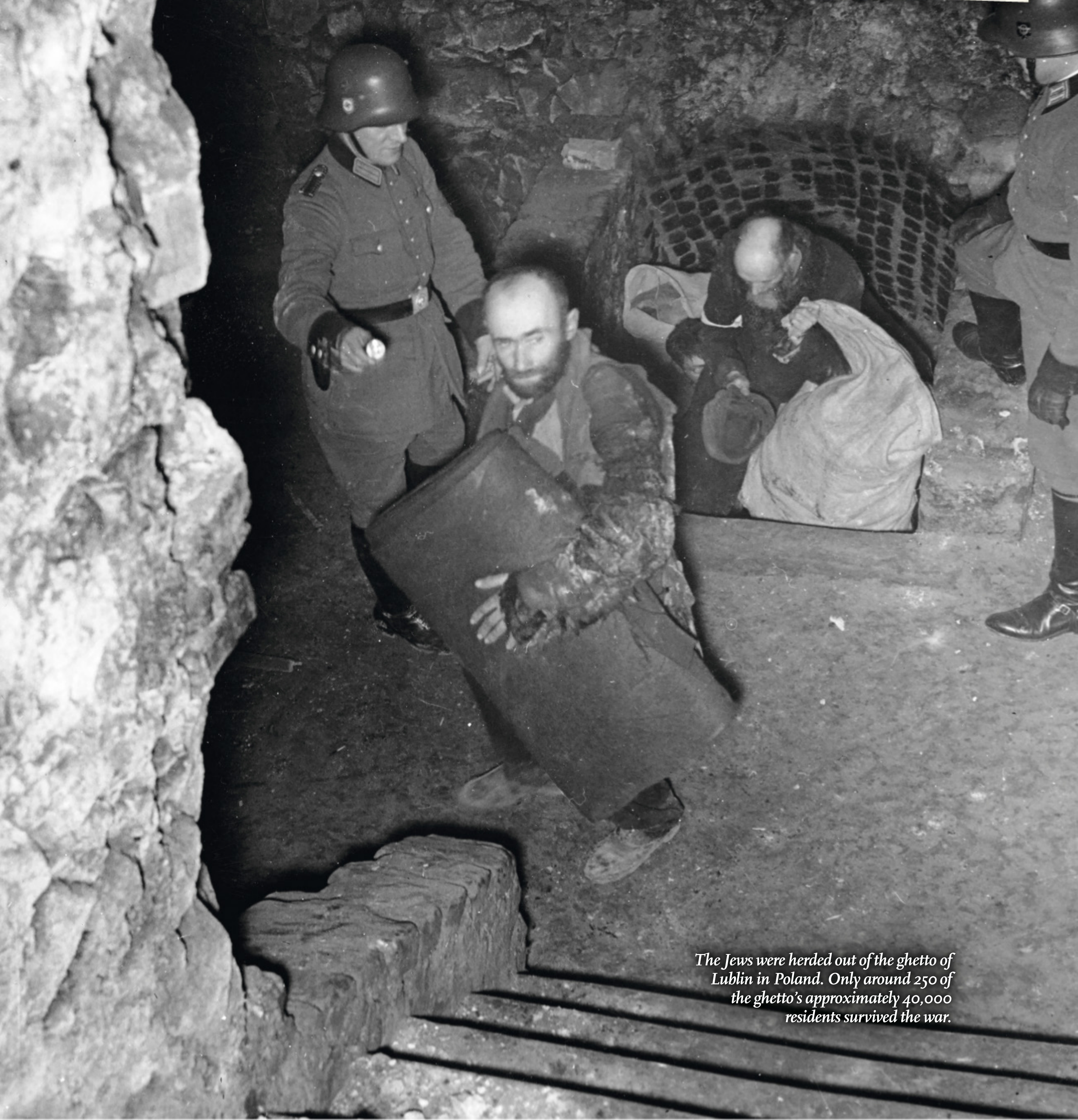
Chief ideologist did all he could to exterminate Jews

Alfred Rosenberg was one of the first to join Nazi forerunner, the German Worker's Party in 1919, a year before Adolf Hitler. In 1930, he published his ideological life's work, *The Myth of the 20th Century* and it sold over a million copies over the following 13 years. The book refined theories about Aryans as superior to Jews and glorified the concept of Lebensraum, Germany's demands for more space in the east. In 1941 Hitler appointed Rosenberg to the Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories, where he was active in conducting The Final Solution, the Jewish genocide. Alongside his political work, the German also systematically coordinated the looting of Jewish libraries and art collections. Rosenberg was sentenced to death after the war.

- **Wished to "free" Christianity from Jewish culture.**
- **Sent 1.5 million railway trucks full of Jewish valuables to Germany.**

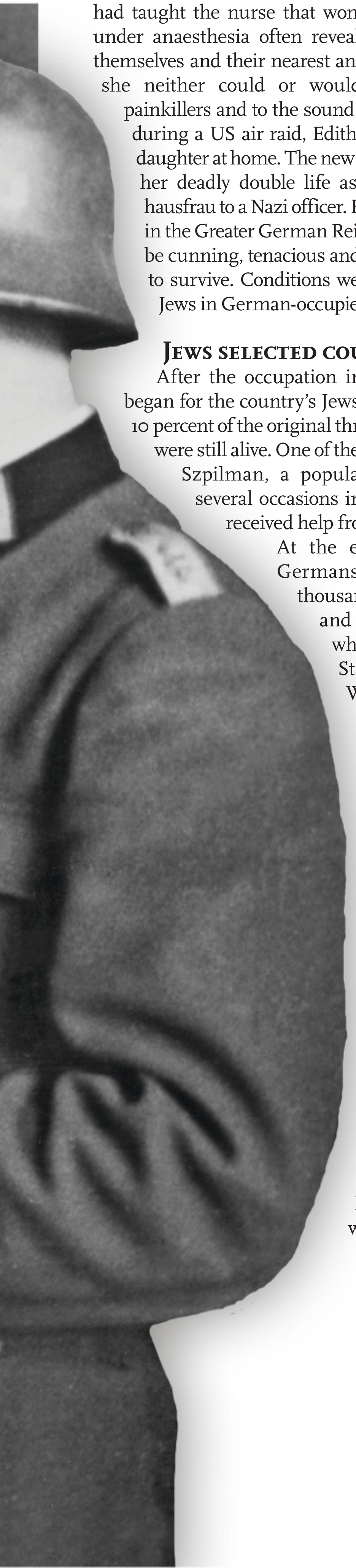


German patrols entered the ghetto in Lublin and captured all Jews hidden in the ghetto basements.

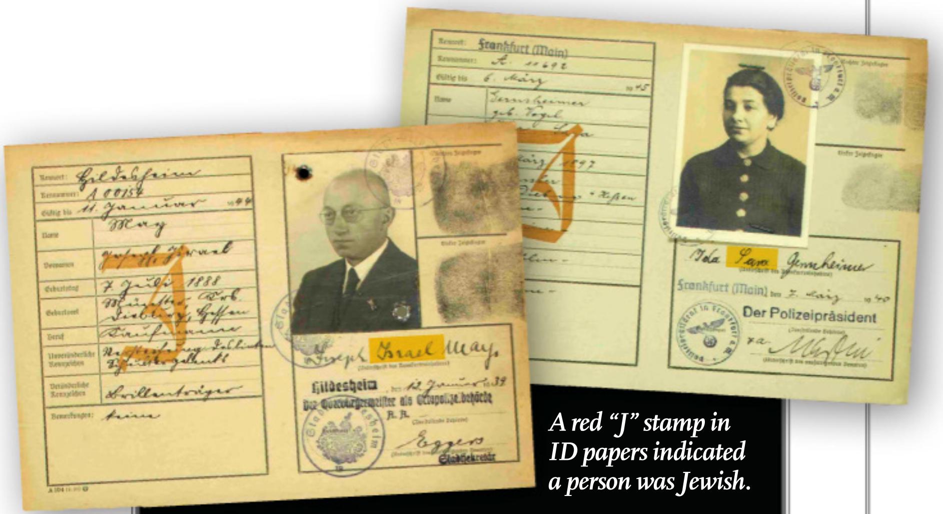


The Jews were herded out of the ghetto of Lublin in Poland. Only around 250 of the ghetto's approximately 40,000 residents survived the war.

All citizens of the Third Reich had to be ready to show their Kennkarte. The identity papers were also issued to non-Germans, including Jews and forced labourers from occupied countries.



had taught the nurse that women giving birth under anaesthesia often revealed truths about themselves and their nearest and dearest – a risk she neither could or would take. Without painkillers and to the sound of howling sirens during a US air raid, Edith gave birth to her daughter at home. The new mother continued her deadly double life as a good German hausfrau to a Nazi officer. But it wasn't simply in the Greater German Reich that Jews had to be cunning, tenacious and lucky if they were to survive. Conditions were even harder for Jews in German-occupied Poland.



A red "J" stamp in ID papers indicated a person was Jewish.

Fake IDs saved Jews

Faking identity papers could pave the way for Jews to survive during the Nazi regime. Poles were particularly good at gaming the system.

All residents of the German Reich aged 15 or over carried ID papers on them. The Kennkarte was – during the war – the most common form of identification. The card revealed a person's ethnic background by both a letter and the colour of the card. For example, people with Jewish heritage had a large red "J" stamped on yellow card. Jews all received a new middle names on the card: men were named Israel while women were called Sara.

In Poland, Jews received help from public officials who issued the cards. According to the Gestapo, at least 150,000 Jews in Warsaw alone had fake ID. False Kennkarte cards were in high demand in the ghettos, where black market sharks charged up to 500 zlotys for fake ID papers – 10 times the price of a loaf of bread in the starving ghettos.

Jews selected countrymen for death

After the occupation in Poland in 1939, the hunt began for the country's Jews. By the end of the war, only 10 percent of the original three million Jewish population were still alive. One of them was the pianist Władysław Szpilman, a popular radio musician who on several occasions in German-occupied Warsaw received help from unexpected quarters.

At the end of October 1940, the Germans forced several hundred thousand Jews into the city's ghetto and forced them all to wear a white armband with the blue Star of David. In the ghetto, Władysław managed to earn a few zloty as a piano player in Jewish restaurants and cafes, but when the Nazis further tightened their grip on the Jewish population, he, his brother, two sisters and parents resettled in a barracks with other "undesirable" Poles and were forced to work – their job was to sort the confiscated belongings of fellow Jews.

The empty suitcases piled up along with the growing fear that the family – like thousands before them – would soon be shipped off to the dreaded oval-shaped Umschlagplatz. From its fenced-off area, Jews were pushed onboard the train to the Treblinka extermination camp. Selection for deportation occurred randomly. Jewish policemen in thrall to the Germans would select a handful of people within the ghetto each day to march to the square. Along the way, officers executed several Jews on the street – all part of the Nazi terror campaign to break the civilian population's urge to resist.

Fame prolonged musician's life

On 16th August, 1942 the Szpilman family sat in the Umschlagplatz, waiting to be sent to certain death. The stench from the bodies of murdered Jews rose from a corner mixed with the pungent smell of disinfectant chlorine that came from the row of waiting cattle trucks.

The family spent their last few zlotys on a single creme caramel, which was divided by pocket knife into six small chunks. This caramel was the family's last meal together. Early in the evening, Władysław and his »

> **"Gone east, no known address"**
>
> Postman's note on Marie Jalowicz's deportation letter

Albert Einstein

Jewish scientist Albert Einstein fled after Hitler seized power to the United States where in 1940 he received US citizenship.

family – to the sound of harsh commands and bruised by rifle butts – were herded into the long queue for the trucks.

"Here! Here, Szpilman!" A Polish voice suddenly called, and the 30-year-old musician was pulled out of the doomed queue. A Polish policeman wearing Jewish armbands had recognised the pianist. Szpilman called desperately after his father who tried to smile and wink in return.

The pianist survived alone in the ghetto on bartered bread and half-mouldy potatoes. Shortly before the Warsaw Uprising in August 1944, Władysław was smuggled out with the help of friends. Hidden in a block of flats near a police station and with views of the bloody street battles, Władysław never knew when friends would come over with food. When the building was smashed by mortar fire, the increasingly weak pianist was forced to search for a new hideaway in the bombed-out ruins of Warsaw.

German officer saved the star pianist

Winter stole across Warsaw's ruins in November 1944 while Władysław was still on the run. The uprising, which had lasted two months, had been crushed by the Germans six weeks earlier. The Red Army was preparing for a decisive attack on the city, and Władysław was hiding in the attic at the top of a large villa.

On 17th November the pianist was surprised by a German army officer with the rank of captain called Wilm Hosenfeld. After Władysław explained who he was, the German ordered him to play on the house piano. As Władysław let his shaking fingers wander over the piano's dusty keys, he tried to fathom why. Was it a trap, or did Hosenfeld genuinely love music?

Hosenfeld left Władysław and promised to return with food. After three days the officer reappeared with bread and jam. Several visits with more food followed until 12th December, when the pianist saw the officer for the last time. Five weeks later, on 17th January, 1945, Warsaw was liberated. When Władysław Szpilman appeared on the radio again for the first time after the war, he played Chopin's Nocturne – the same piece that German bombs had broken off in 1939, and the one that the pianist had performed for Hosenfeld in Warsaw's icy ruins.

"I cannot marry you because I am Jewish"

Edith Hahn to boyfriend Werner Vetter, an officer in the Wehrmacht

Catholics and Jehovah's Witnesses were also unwanted

Nazis didn't simply have Jews in their crosshairs. Other religious minorities and peoples were also consumed by the Holocaust that killed millions of innocent people. No official records indicate the exact figures, but around six million Jews disappeared in addition to hundreds of thousands of others.

After the occupation of France, the Germans placed the country's communists and intellectuals in camps.

Reds were first in the camps

Communists: German communists ended up in concentration camps just after Hitler's seizure of power in 1933. The Nazis spread rumours of gangs of violent communist thugs to justify passing a law that gave Hitler the right to arrest political opponents. Hitler feared the Communist Party's strong ties to the Soviet Union and saw all communists as potential rebels. Nazi idealogy also linked communism and Judaism together and referred to "Bolshevism" as an international Jewish conspiracy to undermine racial purity and mobilise trade unions for revolution against the government.

10,000 died during the communist persecution in the Third Reich.

Pacifism cost lives

Jehovah's Witnesses: members of the Jehovah's Witnesses refused to serve in the German Army or in any other way to support Hitler's regime. This stubborn passive resistance against National Socialism meant that half of the denomination's 10,000 members in Germany were imprisoned and deported to concentration camps in 1935. Unlike Jews and Roma, Jehovah's Witnesses were not persecuted due to race, and could save their lives by renouncing their faith. Only a few took this way out.

3,000

Jehovah's Witnesses perished in KZ camps, around 300 by execution.

Der
WACHTTURM
und Verkünder der Gegenwart Christi

Jehovah's Witnesses were persecuted in Germany from the early 1920s.

Genocide still being discussed

Roma: the Nazi extermination of the Roma in Germany and Eastern Europe was a long-neglected crime – it wasn't until the 1980s that historians started to investigate it. Apparently, it began later and did not reach the same levels as the extermination of Jews. Many Roma in Germany escaped deportation, but those in the occupied territories, including Poland, were mercilessly slaughtered.

220,000

Roma people were killed. Some historians believe the figure is closer to 1.5 million.

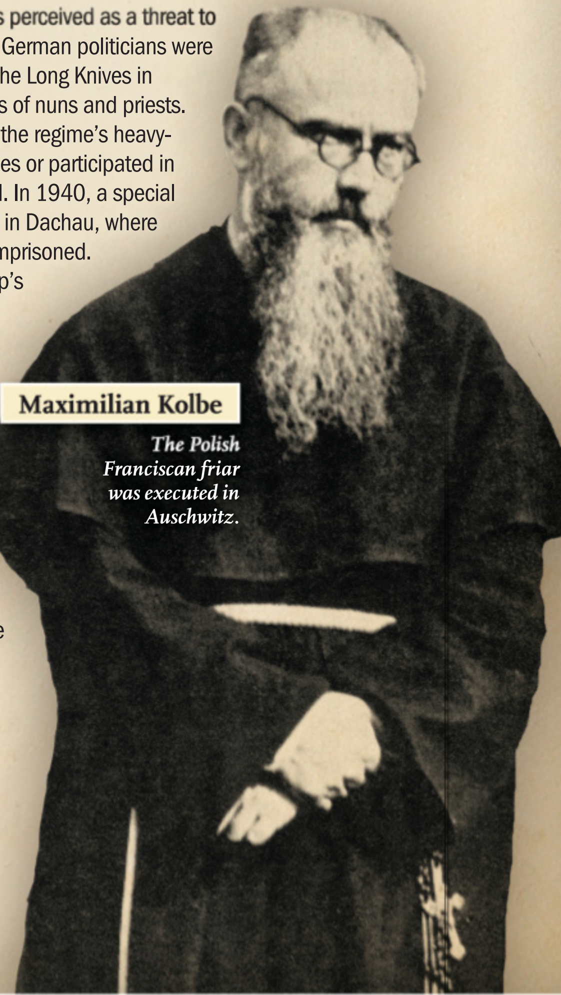
Roma prisoners were interned in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Charity was forbidden

Catholics: every religion was perceived as a threat to National Socialism. Catholic German politicians were arrested during the Night of the Long Knives in 1934, followed by thousands of nuns and priests. Priests who openly criticised the regime's heavy-handed treatment of minorities or participated in the resistance were executed. In 1940, a special barracks for priests was built in Dachau, where around 2,720 priests were imprisoned. Up to 95 percent of the camp's religious prisoners were Catholic. After Germany invaded Poland in 1939, the Gestapo targeted the country's priesthood, hoping to break the church and hence all Polish resistance.

2,000

Catholics perished or were executed in KZ camps.

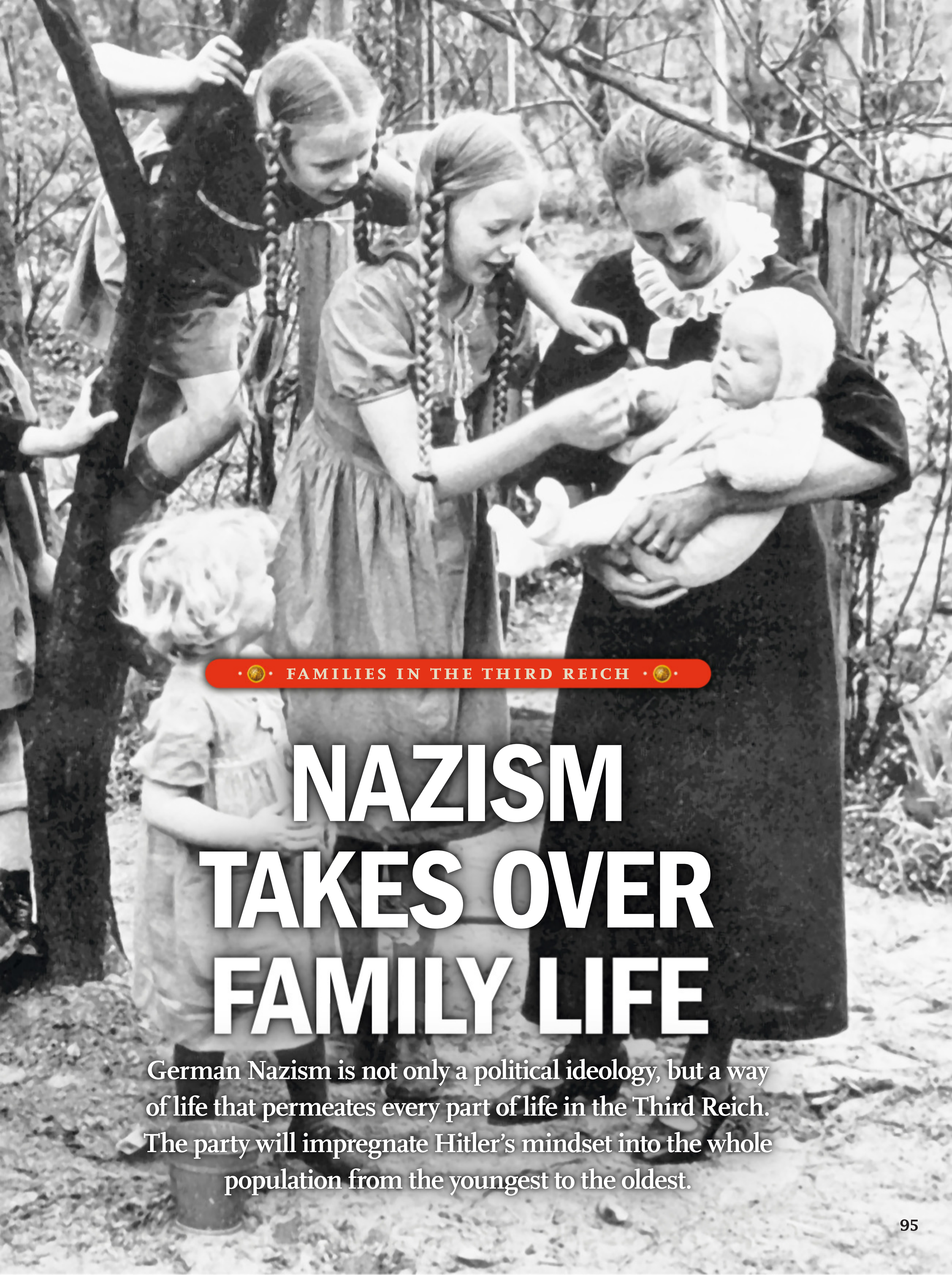


Maximilian Kolbe

The Polish Franciscan friar was executed in Auschwitz.

Families with many children were the ideal in Nazi Germany, where mothers were rewarded for frequent visits to the maternity ward.

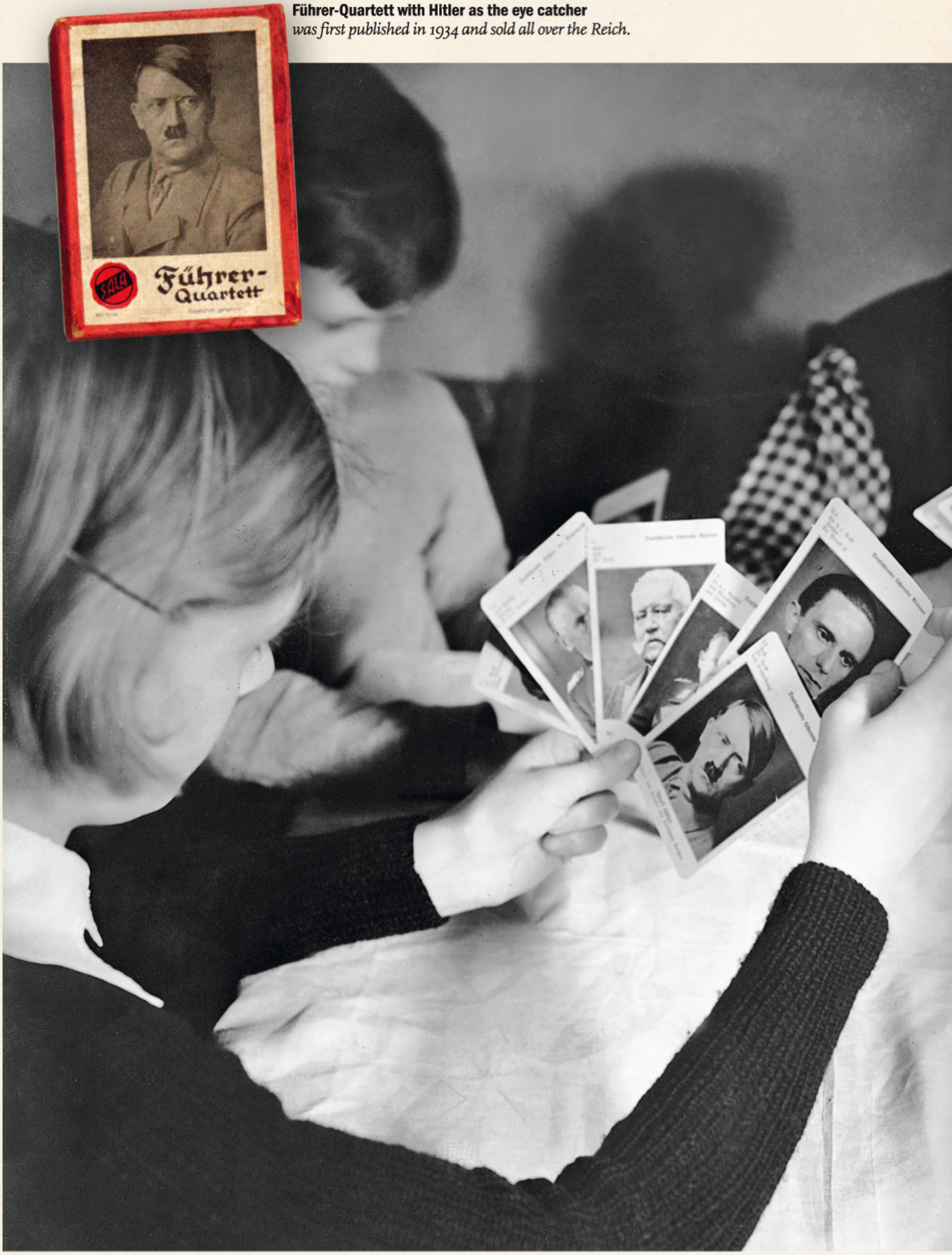
1942



FAMILIES IN THE THIRD REICH

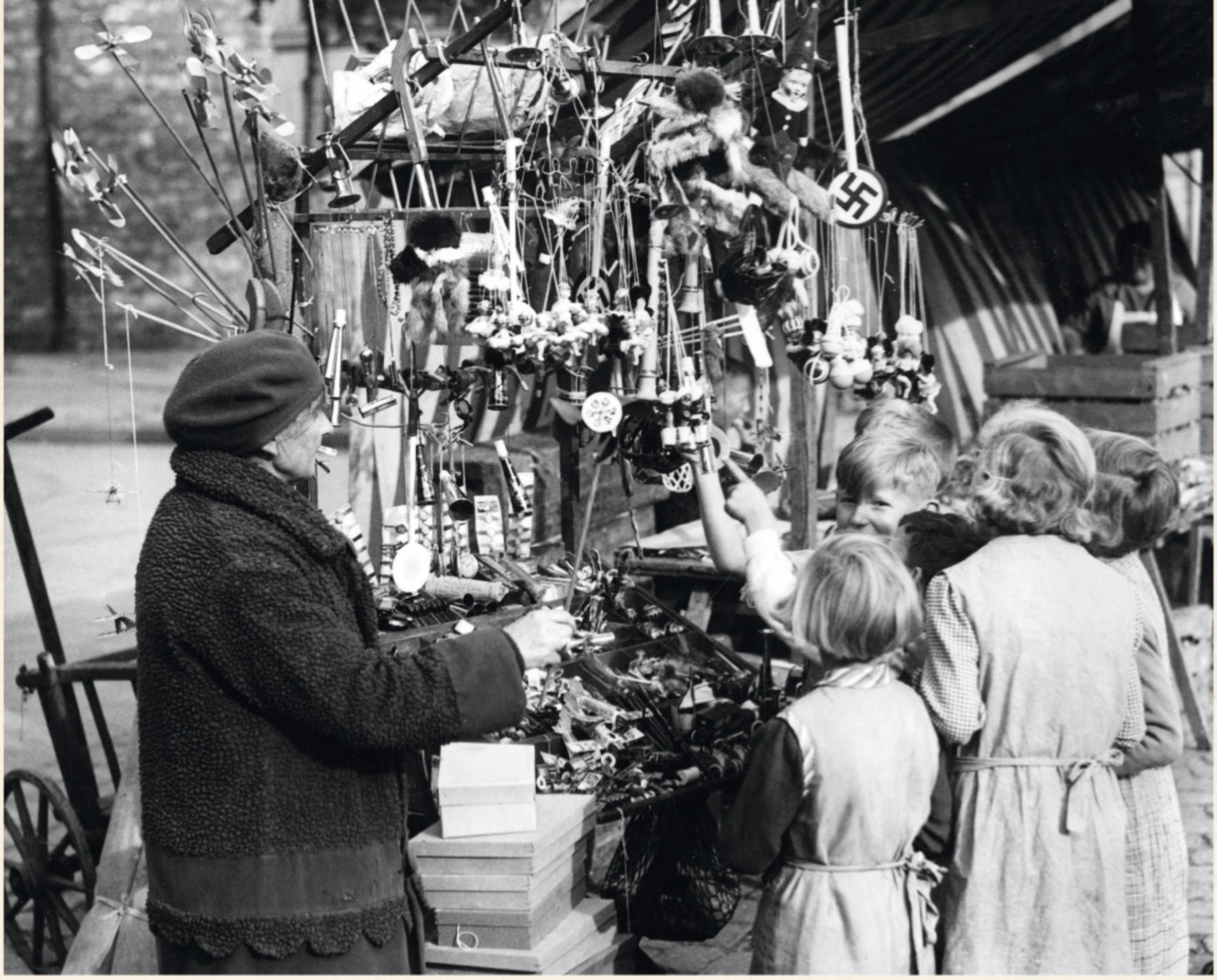
NAZISM TAKES OVER FAMILY LIFE

German Nazism is not only a political ideology, but a way of life that permeates every part of life in the Third Reich. The party will impregnate Hitler's mindset into the whole population from the youngest to the oldest.



Führer-Quartett with Hitler as the eye catcher *was first published in 1934 and sold all over the Reich.*

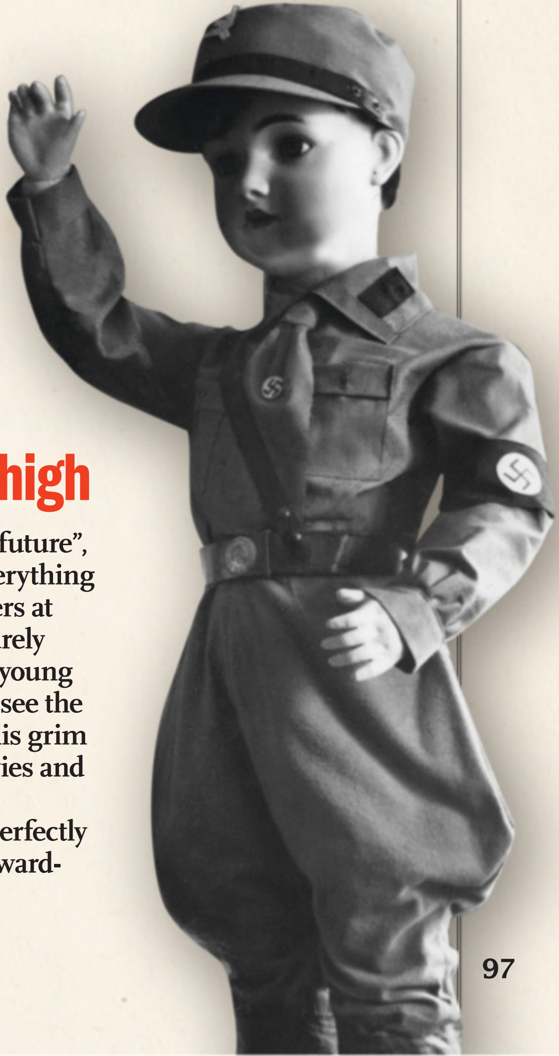
The game Führer-Quartett consisted of cards *with Germany's major politicians, including President Paul von Hindenburg, Joseph Goebbels and of course Adolf Hitler. Subjects were divided into groups, and the game was to collect more of the same series like rummy.*



Nazi symbols recurred throughout the Third Reich, *and toys were no exception. The idea was that everyone from early childhood would absorb Nazism and consider the ideology as something naturally German so indoctrination in school would become easier later.*

Wehrmacht officers often went out *into the country to impress young people with the latest news about Third Reich weaponry. The military were regular visitors among the Hitler Youth.*

The doll could lift its right arm *to salute. The figure, which was produced in 1933, wore the SA uniform with a shoulder strap.*



CHILDREN

Cult interest was high

"Whoever has the youth has the future", said Hitler. And the party did everything that they could to reach youngsters at their own level. Hitler himself rarely missed an opportunity to talk to young people, and if the youth couldn't see the Führer live, everyone could see his grim face in books, on posters, in movies and even on playing cards.

Hitler's focus on youth fitted perfectly with the Nazi self-image as a forward-looking and modern movement.

WOMEN

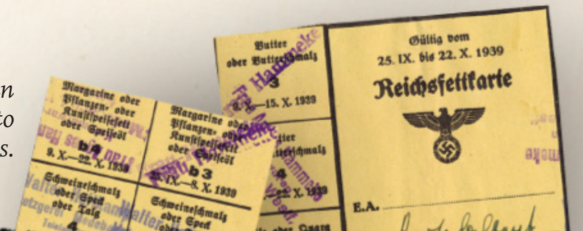
Role as mother was the woman's calling

Unlike most other warring countries Nazi Germany preferred that women stay at home rather than participate in industry. A German woman's calling was to look after the house and keep the family together.

Shortly after taking power in 1933, women were denied access to any important public office. For instance, women could no longer be jurors because they "are not able to think logically or reason objectively, since they are ruled only by emotion". On the other hand, women were highly respected as mothers and were rewarded for having children.

Young women learned to launder *as part of their upbringing in the Nazi youth organisation Bund Deutscher Mädel (League of German Girls).*

After the outbreak of war *in 1939 housewives tried to stretch out their food stamps.*



Gültig vom
25. IX. bis 22. X. 1939
Reichsfettkarte

E.A.
Name:
Wohnort:
Straße:

Ohne Namenseintragung ungültig
Nicht übertragbar — Sorgfältig aufbewahren!

Margarine oder Pflanzen- oder Kunſtſpeiſefett oder Speiſeöl
b4
9. X.—22. X. 1939

Margarine oder Pflanzen- oder Kunſtſpeiſefett oder Speiſeöl
b3
25. IX.—8. X. 1939

Schweineſchmalz oder Speck oder Talg
4
16. X.—22. X. 1939

Schweineſchmalz oder Speck oder Talg
2
2. X.—8. X. 1939

Schweineſchmalz oder Speck oder Talg
3
9. X.—15. X. 1939

Butter oder Butterſchmalz
3
9. X.—15. X. 1939

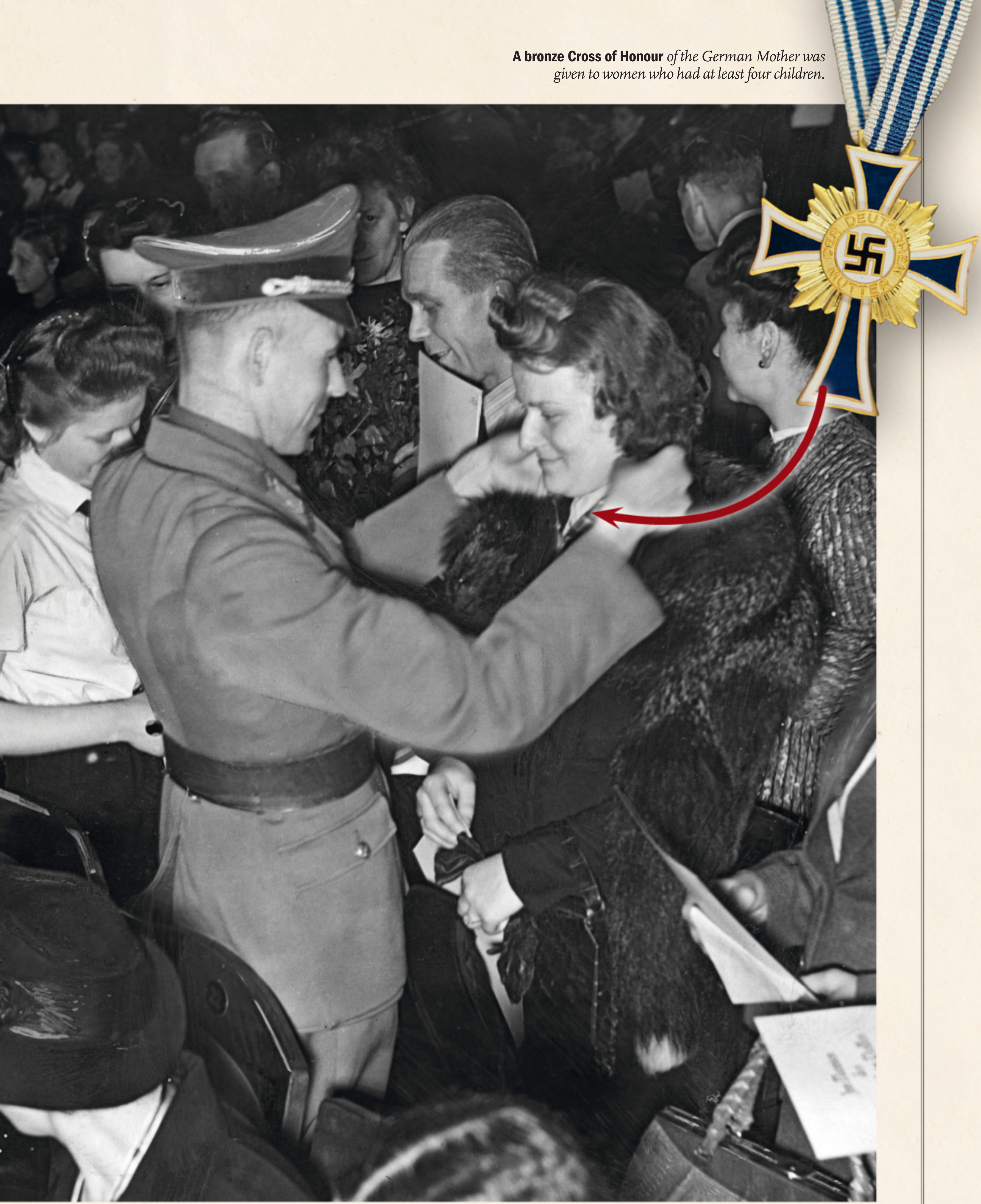
Käſe oder Quarg
4
16. X.—22. X. 1939

Käſe oder Quarg
1
25. IX.—1. X. 1939

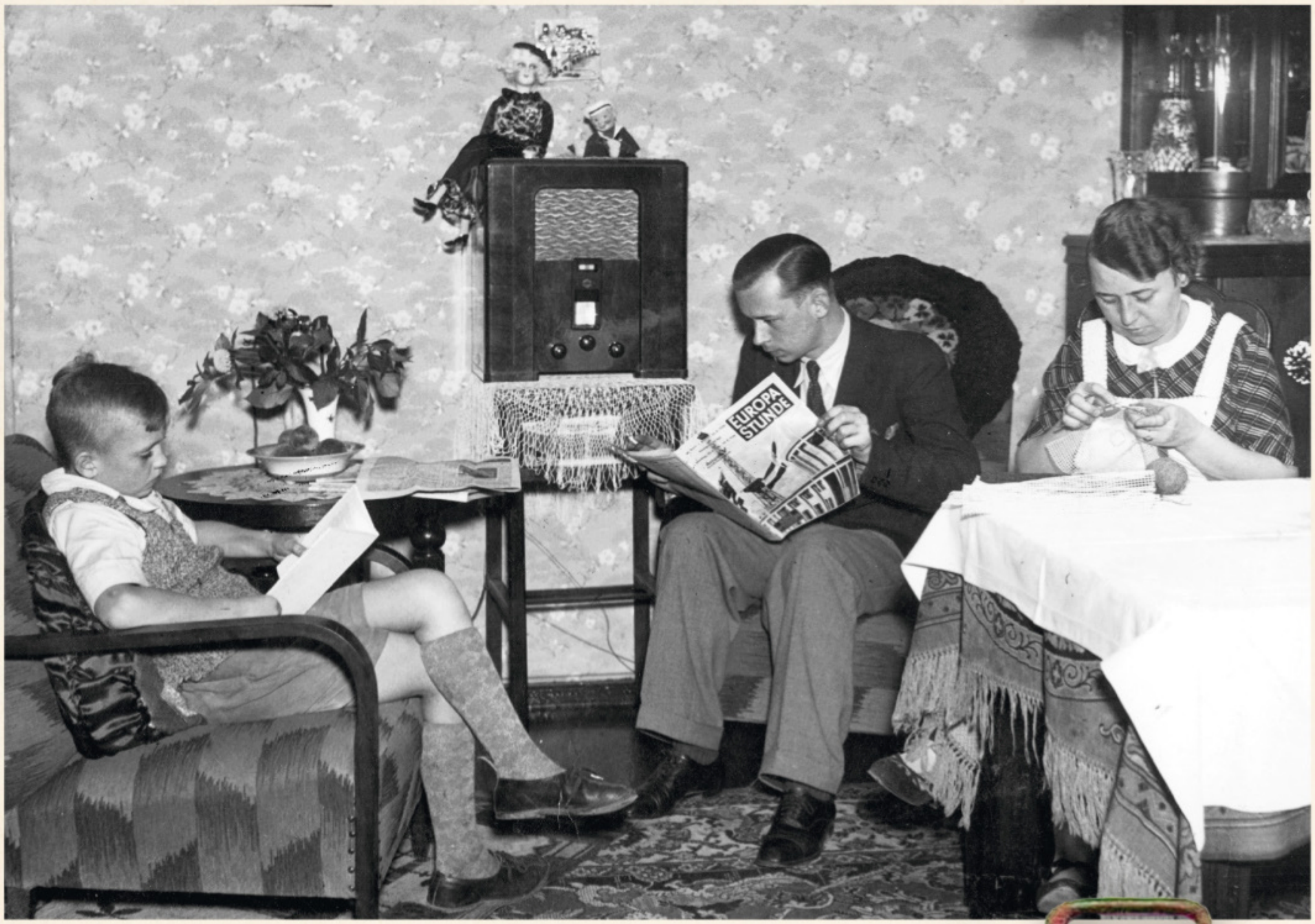
Käſe oder Quarg
3
9. X.—15. X. 1939

Upbringing was largely left to the mothers, *while children were small. The Nazis established associations like Deutsches Frauenwerk, which organised courses and published books on how the ideal wife and mother should behave.*

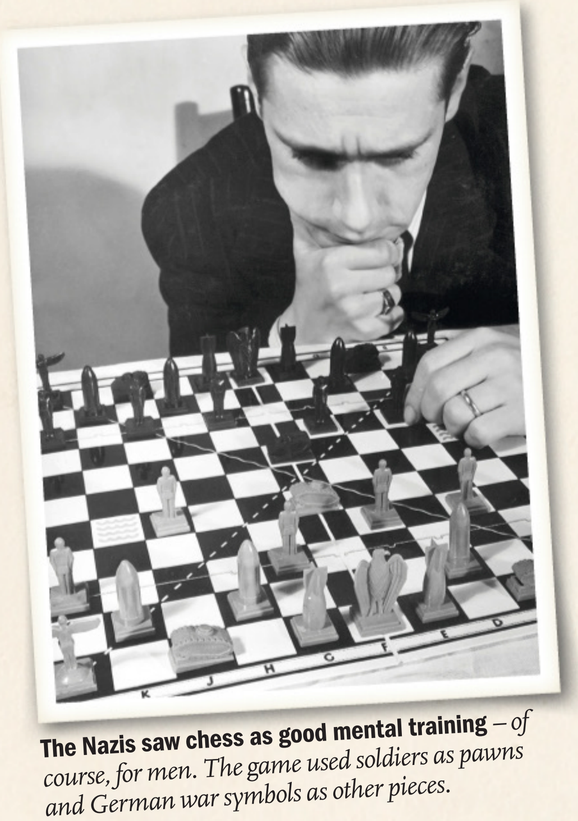
A bronze Cross of Honour *of the German Mother was given to women who had at least four children.*



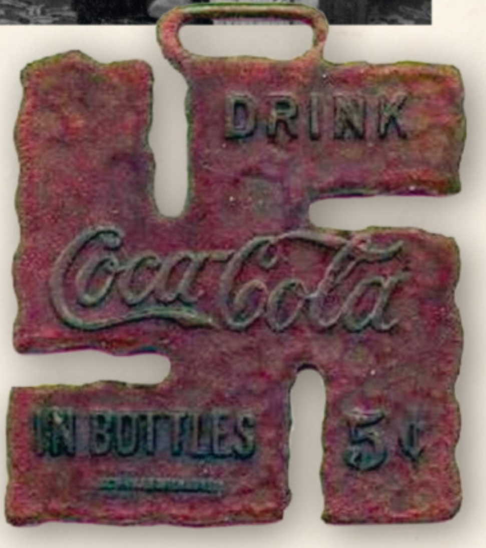
Women received the Cross of Honour of the German Mother *for having lots of children. Four children were rewarded with a bronze Cross of Honour of the German Mother; six children sparked a silver cross and women bearing eight children received a gold one.*



Social interests in Nazi Germany *were reserved for men. The men could for example listen to the radio and read the weekly magazine Europa Stunde.*



The Nazis saw chess as good mental training *– of course, for men. The game used soldiers as pawns and German war symbols as other pieces.*



The swastika symbol *was even used by Coca-Cola for a period.*

MEN

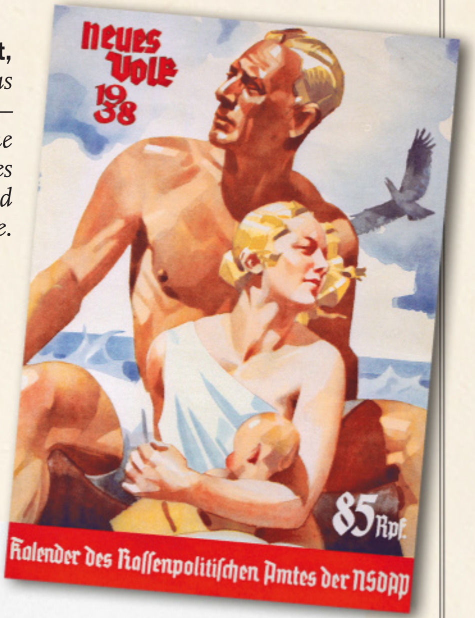
Men trained as soldiers

A man's role in Nazi Germany was primarily to be a soldier. "The army", said Hitler, "will be the last and highest school of patriotic education".

Much of the male sex's existence in Nazi Germany was geared to creating good soldiers, which included men staying both physically and mentally fit. Everyone was encouraged to care for their body through activities in their leisure and at work. At home, the man's role was limited to making money while pure-bred SS men were also urged to procreate with unmarried mothers.

German men often volunteered *in the organisation Technische Nothilfe, which assisted in the event of accidents or air strikes.*

No one was in doubt, *that the man was head of the family – portrayed here in the magazine Neues Volk, which focused particularly on race.*


Neues Volk
1938
85 Rpf.
Kalender des Raſſenpolitiſchen Amtes der NSDAP

Company employees leapfrog *during their lunchtime as part of a Kraft durch Freude program from 1934. Kraft durch Freude was a Nazi holiday and leisure organisation. In addition to running holiday camps and hotels it also launched activities for public health.*

GEGEN DİKTATU
Bei
41. Abt

1943

FEBRUARY

R UND GEWALTHERRSCHAFT

German Social Democrats in Berlin demonstrated against growing fascism three years before Hitler gained power.

UNDERGROUND REBELLION

GERMANS FIGHT LOSING BATTLE AGAINST HITLER

In early 1943, young Germans from the White Rose Resistance Group hand out flyers in Munich. These leaflets speak out against Hitler's Nazi regime and call for a fight against the dictatorship. Few in the Third Reich dare to risk their lives in the fight against the Nazis – these freedom fighters stand virtually alone.

Germany, 1943

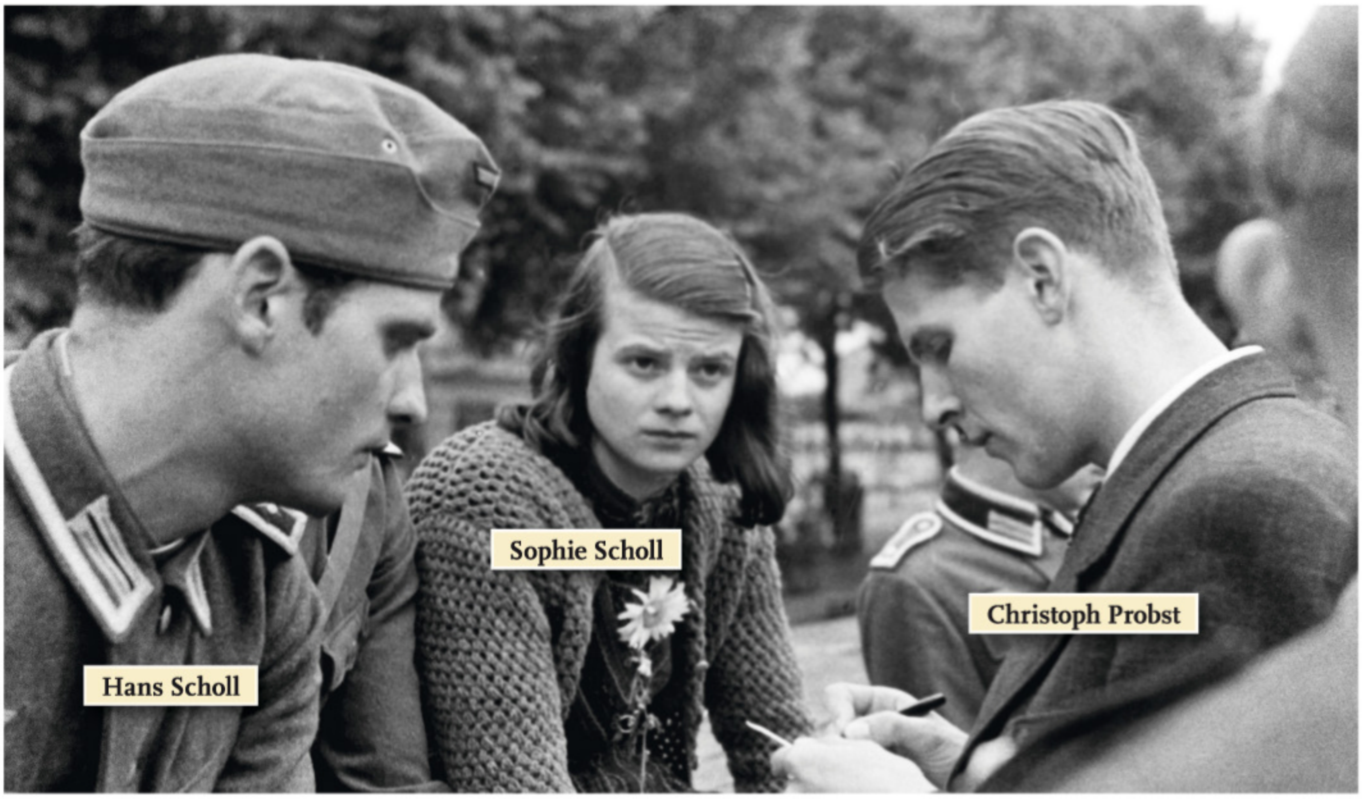
THE STAGE IS SET

In 1933 the Nazis exert absolute control over Germany and force the population to conform to Hitler's fascist regime. From day one some Germans are ready to sacrifice everything for freedom. Communists, students and individuals all attempt to take a stand against the Nazi regime.

In February 1943, three young Germans had their last smoke in Stadelheim Prison, Munich. In defiance of the rules, a guard had given them a few cigarettes before they headed to the guillotine. "I never thought that dying could be so easy", said one prisoner – Christoph Probst – to the other two. All three were members of the White Rose Resistance Group, who for several months had distributed leaflets protesting against the Nazi regime. A few days previously a protest had gone wrong and Probst along with siblings Sophie and Hans Scholl was arrested by the Gestapo. The White Roses did not use bombs, carry out assassinations or transmit confidential information to the enemy, but to the Nazis their offences were much worse: these opponents were guilty of thinking for themselves and encouraging other Germans to do the same.

The guards led Sophie through the prison courtyard first, to a small building where the executioner and the guillotine awaited. Her head held high, the young woman went through

> **"I never thought that dying could be so easy"**
>
> Resistance fighter Christoph Probst before his execution in February 1943



Hans Scholl witnessed the German Army's crimes on the Eastern Front and was anxious to thwart the Nazi regime when he returned to Germany. Together with like-minded people Scholl formed the resistance group White Rose, which distributed leaflets against the regime.

the door – shortly afterwards, a heavy thud was heard. Sophie was 21 years old.

Hans was next, stopping just in front of the execution building before half-turning to shout "Long live freedom" before the 25-year-old also met the guillotine. Hans, Sophie and Christoph were just three of several thousand political opponents murdered by the Nazis during Hitler's regime.

REICHSTAG FIRE BEGAN REPRESSION

The Scholl siblings had not always been anti-Nazi. When they were children, Hans and Sophie were enthusiastic about the Nazi movement's energy and drive. 15-year-old Hans joined the Hitler Youth to become part of the new era, and also perhaps in rebellion against his liberal, anti-Nazi father. 12-year-old Sophie looked up to her brother so followed him by joining the Hitler Youth division for girls.

The two siblings did not perceive the government as a threat – just like millions of other Germans. Hans and Sophie knew nothing of the Nazi regime's victims – Jews, homosexuals, repeat offenders and people with disabilities; they were part of the country's youth that was constantly proclaimed as Nazi Germany's future.

Other Germans had long fought against the Nazis. In the 1920s Communist action groups clashed with thugs in the Nazi SA corps in street fights where fists and clubs were extensively used. Nazis who ventured into working class neighbourhoods in Berlin – which according to Hitler's propaganda master Joseph Goebbels was "The reddest city in Europe, after Moscow" – risked getting beaten up.

The Communist Party were aware that Hitler becoming Chancellor in 1933 would threaten the movement. Paradoxically it was the Communists that gave Hitler a pretext to crack down on the party without arousing ordinary Germans' suspicions.

The Berlin fire brigade were called to the Reichstag when flames shot up one February night. Firefighters fought the flames for hours and managed to save the building itself, but the interior lay in ruins. Leaving a dinner party early Hitler went to the Reichstag, where he was greeted by the Nazi party's second in command, Hermann Göring.

"This is undoubtedly the work of Communists", spluttered the corpulent Göring. "We have succeeded in arresting one of the incendiaries". Sure enough, the police reported that investigators had arrested a young Dutch Communist and found explosive materials inside the building. Dutchman Marinus van der Lubbe was probably guilty and had set the building on fire as a protest against Hitler. But the sabotage proved so convenient for the new chancellor that many suspected the Nazis of being behind the arson.

The following day, the government used the fire as an excuse for introducing laws that restricted citizens' rights. The Nazis also exploited the fire to persecute Communists and later unlawfully destroy the party. Some top Communists, such as Walter Ulbricht, fled the country, Ulbricht spending World War II in the Soviet Union. After the end of the war, the ex-German returned home to create and then lead Stalin's vassal East German state. Other Communists did not escape but were arrested and sent to Nazi Germany's first concentration camp in Dachau, opened in March 1933. German Communists may have been left without their leaders, but although the party had been declared illegal, the movement continued underground. In the summer of 1933, half its members still paid a subscription – about 180,000 Germans. In addition, workers organised collections in places like factories to raise money for the 422 members who worked full time in illegal resistance. By the turn of 1934, 1,000 accusations of Communist resistance work had been raised by Berlin's Supreme Court alone.

A defendant is sentenced to death for his involvement in the attempt to kill Hitler in 1944.

Regime's opponents were doomed

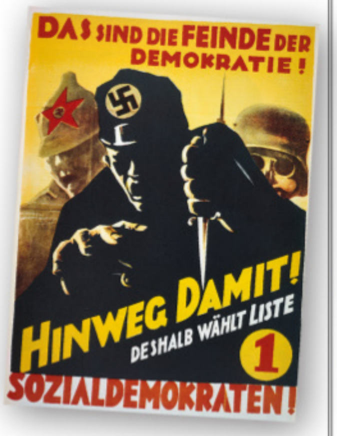
Judges and prosecutors upgraded harmless violations to charges of high treason in the Third Reich's People's Court.

Even though litigation in Nazi tribunals appeared to be independent, the purpose was to eradicate opponents of the regime. The defenders' main task was to get the defendants to admit their guilt. If the accused chose to cooperate, the sentence could be relatively mild until 1942.

In 1942 Roland Freisler became President of the People's Court. Freisler's method was to constantly fling charges and insults at the accused and continually interrupt as they attempted to explain themselves. His inspiration came from Stalin's show trials, which the president had observed before the war. Following his heckling, Freisler delivered judgment on the charges, which in 90 percent of the cases led to the death penalty.

WORKERS STRUCK AGAINST FACTORIES

The capital remained the stronghold for illegal German Communists. One of the leaders was factory worker Robert Uhrig who spent 21 months in prison for anti-Nazi work. However, the punishment only reinforced the Communist's resistance, and after his release Uhrig formed a secret group with old colleagues. The Communist leader


DAS SIND DIE FEINDE DER
DEMOKRATIE!
HINWEG DAMIT!
DESHALB WÄHLT LISTE
1
SOZIALDEMOKRATEN!

Social Democrats portrayed both Nazis and Communists as enemies of democracy in the elections of 1930.

sought contact with other opponents of the Nazis. Uhrig got in touch with the lawyer Josef Römer, who published the illegal magazine *Informationsdienst* – "Information Service". The two anti-Nazis joined forces and eventually became the Communist Party's leading men in Berlin. The Uhrig-Römer Group published and distributed information services twice a month, helped people escape the regime and carried out sabotage after the war broke out by – for example – ensuring that workers at arms factories deliberately made mistakes in production or damaged machinery.

Despite their best efforts, the actions had little effect. Some workers joined the anti-Nazi cause, but the vast majority just wanted to do their job. If Hitler's regime was to be overthrown, forces outside of Germany would need to help. Some Communists tried to foster foreign aid by sending confidential information out of the Third Reich. The Nazis' security service gave these "traitors" the name Red Orchestra because the spies were Communists and "played music" in the form of coded radio messages sent from Berlin to foreign contacts.

The Red Orchestra's main protagonists were two married couples: Harnack and Schulze-Boysen. They were bourgeoisie and counted both celebrities and diplomats among their circle. The men both had successful careers: Arvid Harnack was employed by the Ministry of Economy, while his friend and partner in crime Lieutenant Harro Schulze-Boysen worked in the Ministry of Aviation.

But both men were also Communists and used their trusted positions to obtain information that was passed on to the United States and afterwards the Soviet Union. Among other things, Harnack and Schulze-Boysen warned about Hitler's invasion plans in 1941, but were not taken seriously.

In 1942, sloppy security in radio messages from Moscow finally put the Gestapo on the trail of the Red Orchestra. Members were monitored until the regime knew enough to extinguish the entire group. Once arrested, they were then sentenced to death with a single exception. Arvid Harnack's wife, Mildred, was born in the United States, and as a foreigner she had not strictly committed treason. Mildred was sentenced to six years hard labour, but then Hitler personally intervened to ensure Mildred received the same punishment as her fellow conspirators.

Robert Uhrig and Josef Römer also ran out of luck that same year when more than 200 members of the resistance group were arrested. By the time the Communists came to court, half had already been beaten in prison, often resulting in death. The survivors were handed down death sentences.

Within two years, the police had arrested 219 of the 422 Communists whom the party had paid for resistance work. 125 had fled the country, the Nazis had murdered 24, and 54 left the party. After 1942, the Communists played almost no role in Germany's resistance struggle.

TEENAGERS WERE YOUNG REBELS

While the Communists' strength gradually ebbed and dissipated during the 1930s, Hans and Sophie Scholl attended school and leisure activities in the Nazi youth federations. Hans appeared to be a natural leader and headed up a group of 150 boys, but the young German had begun to doubt. The indoctrination and demands for unconditional obedience in the Hitler Youth contradicted his inward desire for

NAZIFICATION

NAZI LAW TIGHTENS ITS GRIP ON GERMANS

Hindenburg appointed Hitler in January 1933.

1933

30TH JANUARY:
Adolf Hitler made chancellor by President Paul von Hindenburg.

27TH FEBRUARY:
The Nazis pressure Paul von Hindenburg to issue the Reichstag Fire Decree, which repeals civil rights, such as freedom of the press and freedom of assembly.

24TH MARCH:
Enabling Act authorises the government to push through new laws without the consent of the Reichstag.

2ND MAY:
Hitler bans trade unions the day after International Labour Day. Nazis occupy trade union headquarters and other "Marxist economic organisations".

14TH JULY:
All political parties are declared illegal except for the Nazi party.

1934

2ND AUGUST:
Paul von Hindenburg dies aged 86. Hitler merges the President and Chancellor positions together and takes the official title of Führer.

1935

15TH SEPTEMBER:
Jews deprived of citizenship via the Nuremberg laws. People participating in "anti-German" activities can also lose citizenship.

1938

17TH AUGUST:
Tougher laws on treason allow the death penalty for actions that are "liable to threaten the defensive capability of the German nation".

1939

25TH MARCH:
Membership of the Hitler Youth becomes mandatory. Most youth associations in Germany are absorbed by the Nazi organisation or forcibly dissolved.

Mandatory membership of the Hitler Youth was to create obedient and loyal Nazi youth.

“This is undoubtedly the work of Communists”

Hermann Göring after the Reichstag fire in 1933

independence. He was not the only one who eventually wanted to rebel against the regime. Throughout Germany teenagers felt the urge to break away from Nazi regimentation. In higher walks of life, young people’s desire for freedom was expressed in their love of swing and jazz music, which the regime had declared “degenerate negro music”. Illegal records were smuggled into the country, and the so-called swingers met for large private parties. Here, young people listened and danced to stars like Louis Armstrong and Glenn Miller, drank alcohol and had sex – unacceptable behaviour in Nazi eyes.

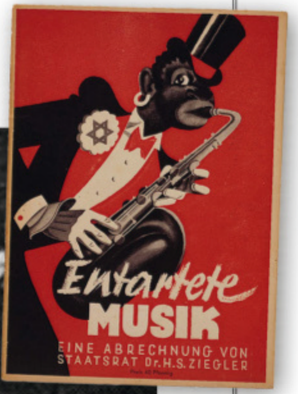
“The dancers were an appalling sight”, reported a member of the Hitler Youth, who was sent to spy. “None of the couples danced normally; there was only swing of the worst sort”. For the young Nazi spy the horror peaked when even the band got up and “all ‘jitterbugged’ on stage like wild creatures”.

Other youth groups became more radical. The Edelweiss Pirates were groups of 12- to 18-year-old working-class children who originated in cities in the west of Germany in the 1930s. They were united by a hatred of the Hitler Youth and the strict Nazi rules. The boys adopted windbreakers and checked shirts with a metal edelweiss flower on their lapels, while many girls dressed in white sweaters. Both sexes grew their hair. After the outbreak of war in 1939, the group’s resistance to the regime took a more active turn. The Pirates wrote anti-Nazi anthems, fought street fights with Hitler Youth members and helped hide deserters from the army. The authorities had doubts about how to handle this youth resistance. Some police considered the actions as merely that of boys who should not be taken seriously. But when the pirates appeared to be more provocative at the beginning of the war, the regime was less indulgent. During a major action in 1942, security forces captured 739 Edelweiss Pirates, who were sent to rehabilitation camps. Here the youngsters would learn to become good Nazis. Two years later, the groups still existed and were considered such a large problem that the Nazi government sent the Pirate leaders to the gallows in Cologne.

LONE WOLF WANTED TO AVERT WAR

Although the Edelweiss Pirates resisted the regime they did not try to stop the war and Nazi atrocities by targeting the Third Reich’s leadership. On the whole, most German civilians made no attempt to destroy the Nazi elite.

Nazis viewed jazz and swing as “degenerate” music and an expression of an inferior negro culture.



The Edelweiss Pirates’ mixed social life and meetings between both sexes was a reaction to the Third Reich’s regimentation, and stood in stark contrast to the Nazis’ top-down organisations that split boys (Hitler Youth) from girls (League of German Girls).

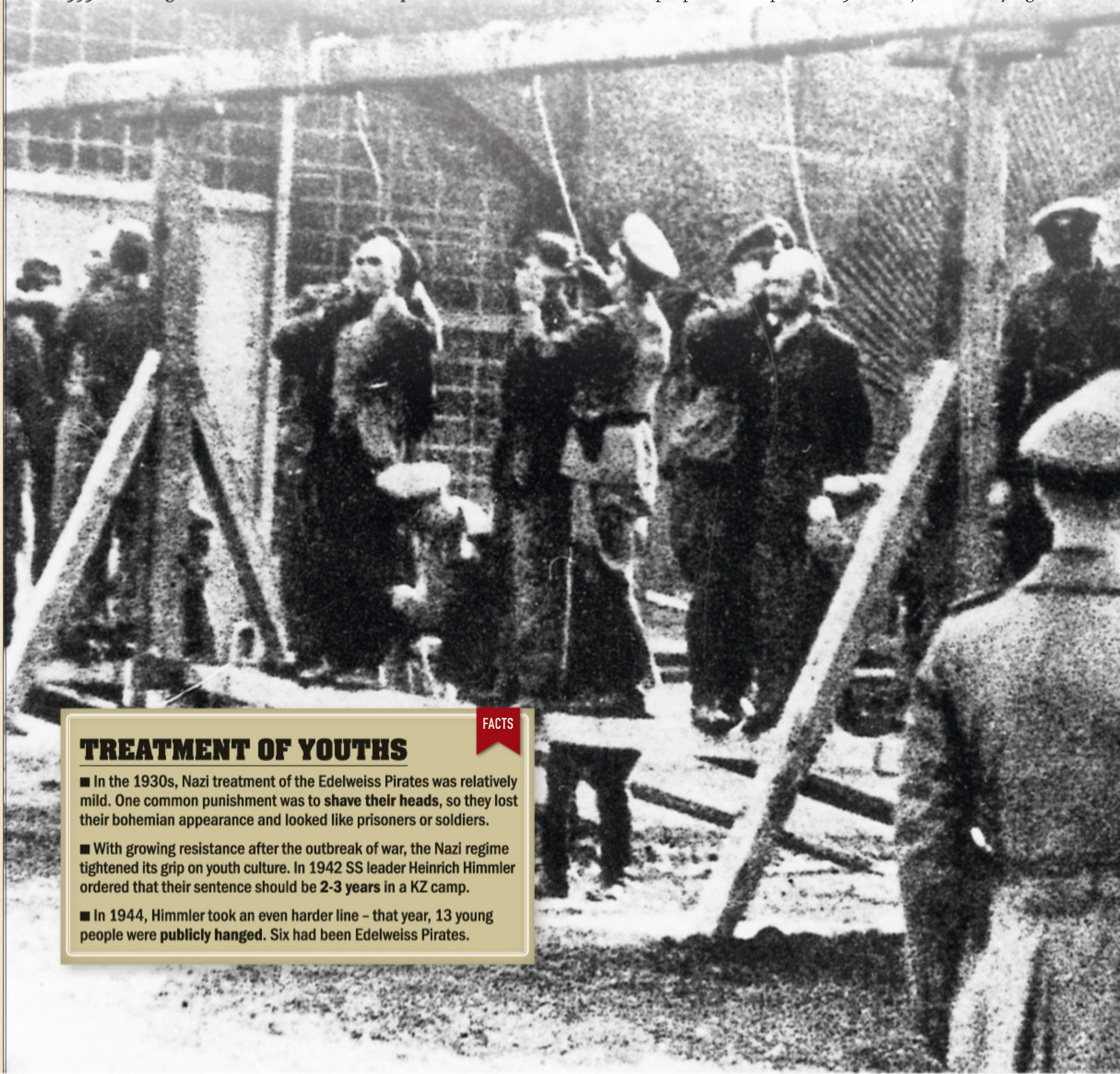
Carpenter Johann Georg Elser was the exception by attempting to carry out his own assassination of Hitler. Elser went into action in the hope of preventing the war that the Nazis were drawing the Third Reich into.

"My thoughts led me to the conclusion that conditions in Germany could be changed only by the removal of the present leadership... Hitler, Göring and Goebbels", said the assailant at the time. Elser was unknown and planned the action alone, allowing him to stay off the Gestapo's radar.

The craftsman had discovered the perfect place to carry out the assassination. Every year on 8th November, Hitler travelled to Munich to mark the anniversary of the Nazis' unsuccessful coup attempt in 1923.

With precision planning Hitler marched through the streets accompanied by faithful followers, eventually arriving at the Bürgerbräukeller Bar at 20.30. Hitler usually gave a speech to the Nazis lasting an hour and a half before leaving. In late summer 1939, Elser began to visit the bar where the speech would take place. He hid himself away and after closing time hollowed out a column near where Hitler would give his speech. After 30-35 visits, the hollow was large enough to accommodate a bomb, which Elser built at the same time. The craftsman sourced the explosive from a temporary job at a quarry. He designed the bomb's timing using mechanisms from watches and spare parts from cars. When Hitler arrived in Munich on 8th November, 1939, the assailant had already set the countdown and was on a train bound for the Swiss border. As a result Elser did not witness the change to Hitler's schedule. Hitler arrived at the Bürgerbräukeller early at 20.00 hours and his speech was cut by nearly half an hour. By 21.07 Hitler had received the supporters' applause, raised his arm in the Nazi salute by way of farewell and got into a car to drive to the train station.

Approximately 120 Nazis partied in the beer cellar as Elser's bomb exploded at 21.20 – a time when Hitler would normally have been approaching the end of his speech. The explosive killed seven people on the spot and 63 were injured, one dying



FACTS

TREATMENT OF YOUTHS

- In the 1930s, Nazi treatment of the Edelweiss Pirates was relatively mild. One common punishment was to **shave their heads**, so they lost their bohemian appearance and looked like prisoners or soldiers.
- With growing resistance after the outbreak of war, the Nazi regime tightened its grip on youth culture. In 1942 SS leader Heinrich Himmler ordered that their sentence should be **2-3 years** in a KZ camp.
- In 1944, Himmler took an even harder line – that year, 13 young people were **publicly hanged.** Six had been Edelweiss Pirates.

later from his injuries. When he received the news of the bomb attack, Hitler claimed it to be "a corroboration of Providence's intention to let me reach my goal". Meanwhile, border guards arrested Elser who had tried to sneak across the border. The Gendarmes found a postcard in his pocket from Bürgerbräukeller where a cross was drawn on a column. Suspicions were confirmed when staff recognised him as a frequent visitor.

SS chief Heinrich Himmler refused to believe that Elser had acted alone and suspected British intelligence of being involved. Himmler kept Elser alive, hoping to be able gain vital information from him. Elser revealed nothing through torture and was finally executed at the concentration camp in Dachau, shortly before the end of the war in April 1945.

STUDENTS SUFFERED DEFEAT

Like Johann Georg Elser, Hans Scholl saw the outbreak of WWII as a disaster for Germany. The young German had long lost his teenage fascination with Nazism and

NAME **DIETRICH BONHOEFFER**

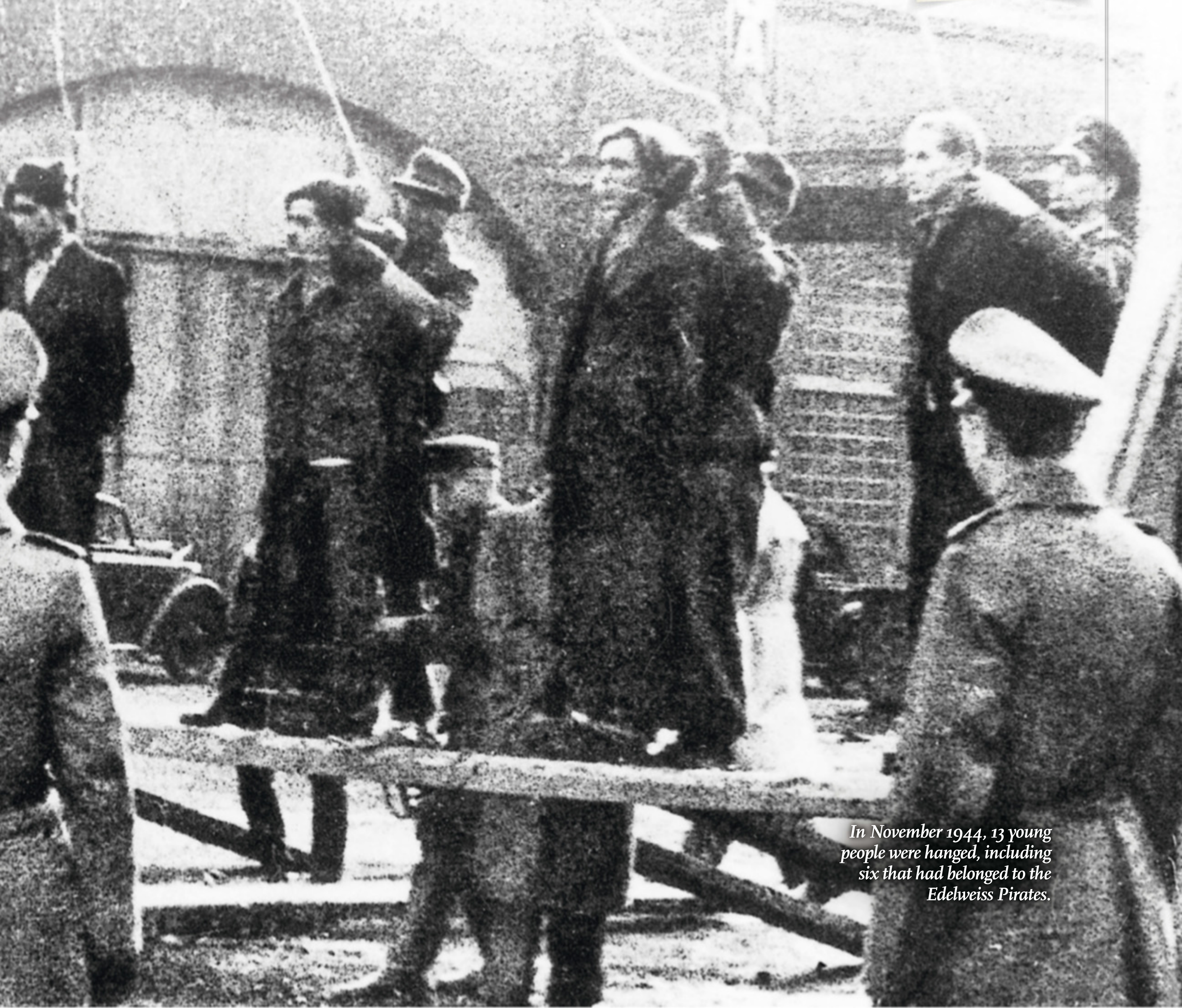
TITLE THEOLOGIAN

1906-1945

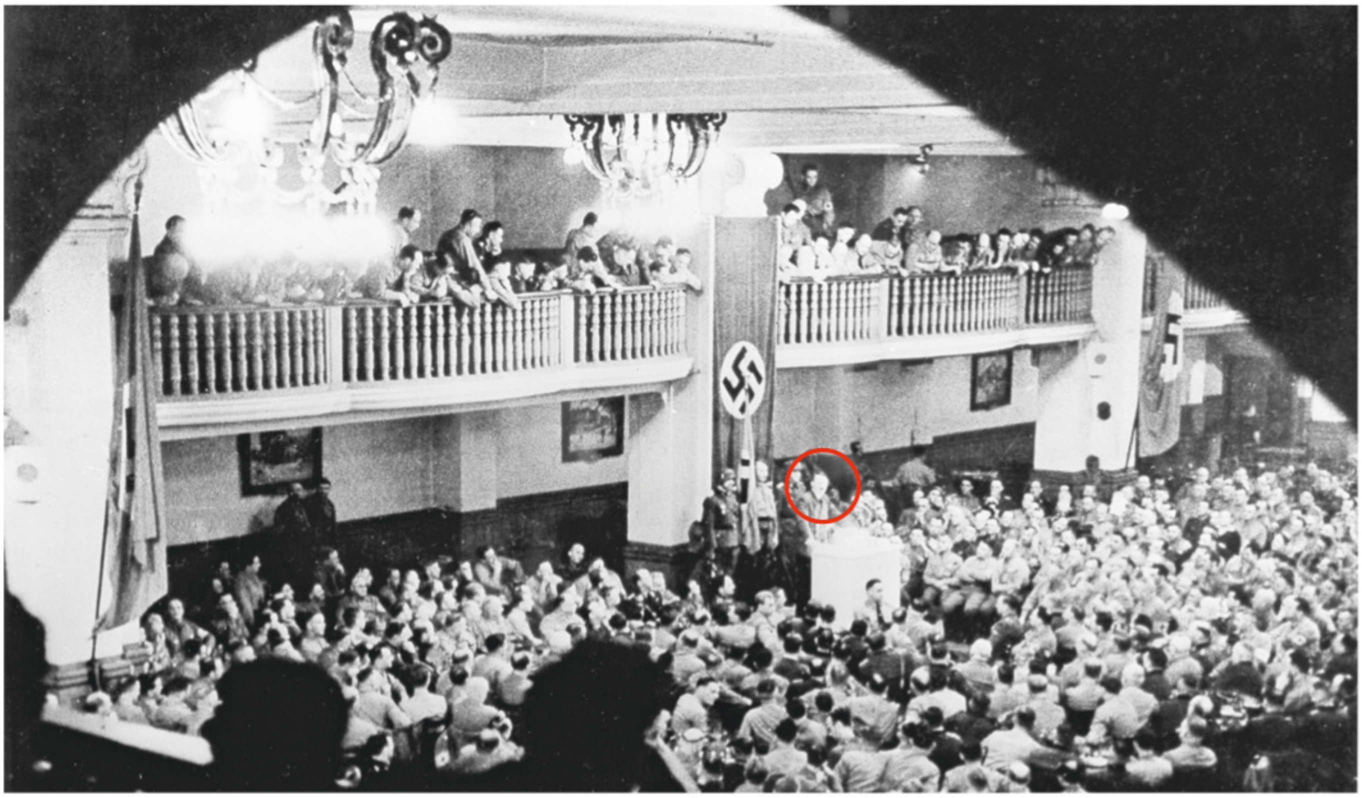
Pastor wanted to kill Hitler

In the 1930s Dietrich Bonhoeffer protested peacefully against Nazism, but after the outbreak of war, and convinced by the persecution of Jews, the pastor believed that Hitler had to be removed. Bonhoeffer had contact with resistance circles who planned an attack on the Führer. He was imprisoned in 1943 for helping Jews to escape. During the discovery of a plot against Hitler in July 1944, evidence was found which led to Bonhoeffer, who was hanged in a KZ camp.

- **Was a priest in London in 1933-35.**
- **Stayed briefly in the US in 1939.**



In November 1944, 13 young people were hanged, including six that had belonged to the Edelweiss Pirates.



Johann Georg Elser tried to use Hitler's annual speech in the Bürgerbräukeller bar to assassinate the Führer. But Hitler's travel plans changed due to bad weather, which meant the Nazi leader had left the venue before the bomb exploded.

"We need to lose the war"

Sophie Scholl to White Rose comrade

had spent five weeks in jail for membership of an illegal youth organisation. As a conscript Scholl witnessed the brutality of the German Army on the Eastern Front and was ready to resist Nazi rule when he was allowed to return home to complete his medical education in Munich in 1942. He formed The White Rose, a secret student group that began to print anti-Nazi texts. These urged sabotage at every level:

"Obstruction of the smooth functioning of the war machine (a machine for war that goes on solely to shore up and perpetuate the National Socialist Party and its dictatorship)" urged a pamphlet that citizens in several German cities found in their mailboxes in summer 1942.

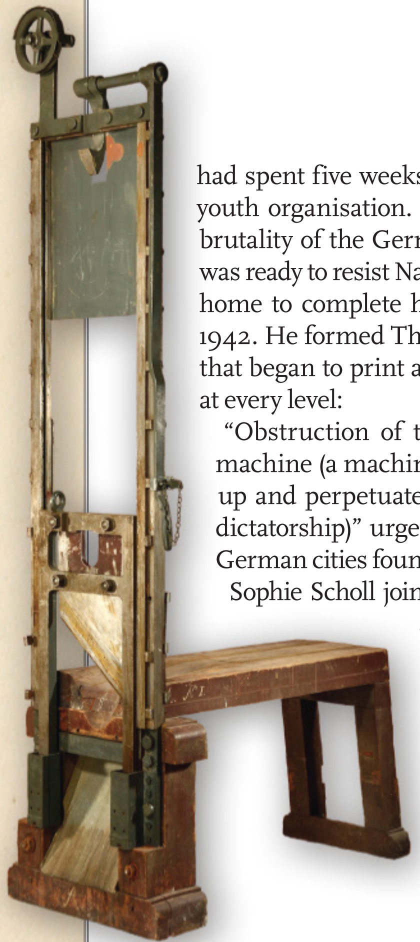
Sophie Scholl joined her brother and his friends in the autumn. The 21-year-old woman was even more anti-Nazi than other members of the White Rose. Sophie even refused to donate to a collection of woollen clothing for the shivering soldiers on the Eastern Front: "We need to lose the war. If we give warm clothing, we extend it", she said. This message became the theme of White Rose's sixth pamphlet – the group's last – which was issued in February 1943.

Hans and Sophie were caught by a caretaker in the act of spreading the leaflets at the University of Munich. The University director summoned the Gestapo, and the game was up for the students. The entire group was unveiled and brought to the Nazi People's Court. The dreaded Judge Roland Freisler, who had sent more regime critics to the gallows than any other, arrived from Berlin to lead the case.

The verdict was a foregone conclusion. Hans and Sophie Scholl were executed along with their friend and fellow conspirator Christoph Probst.

"Soon you will be standing here, where I now stand," was Hans Scholl's response to Judge Freisler and the other Nazis in the courtroom. That evening, the three convicts smoked their last cigarettes before guards led the resistance fighters to the guillotine. White Rose was finished, like almost all other groups and individuals who had dared to oppose Hitler's regime.

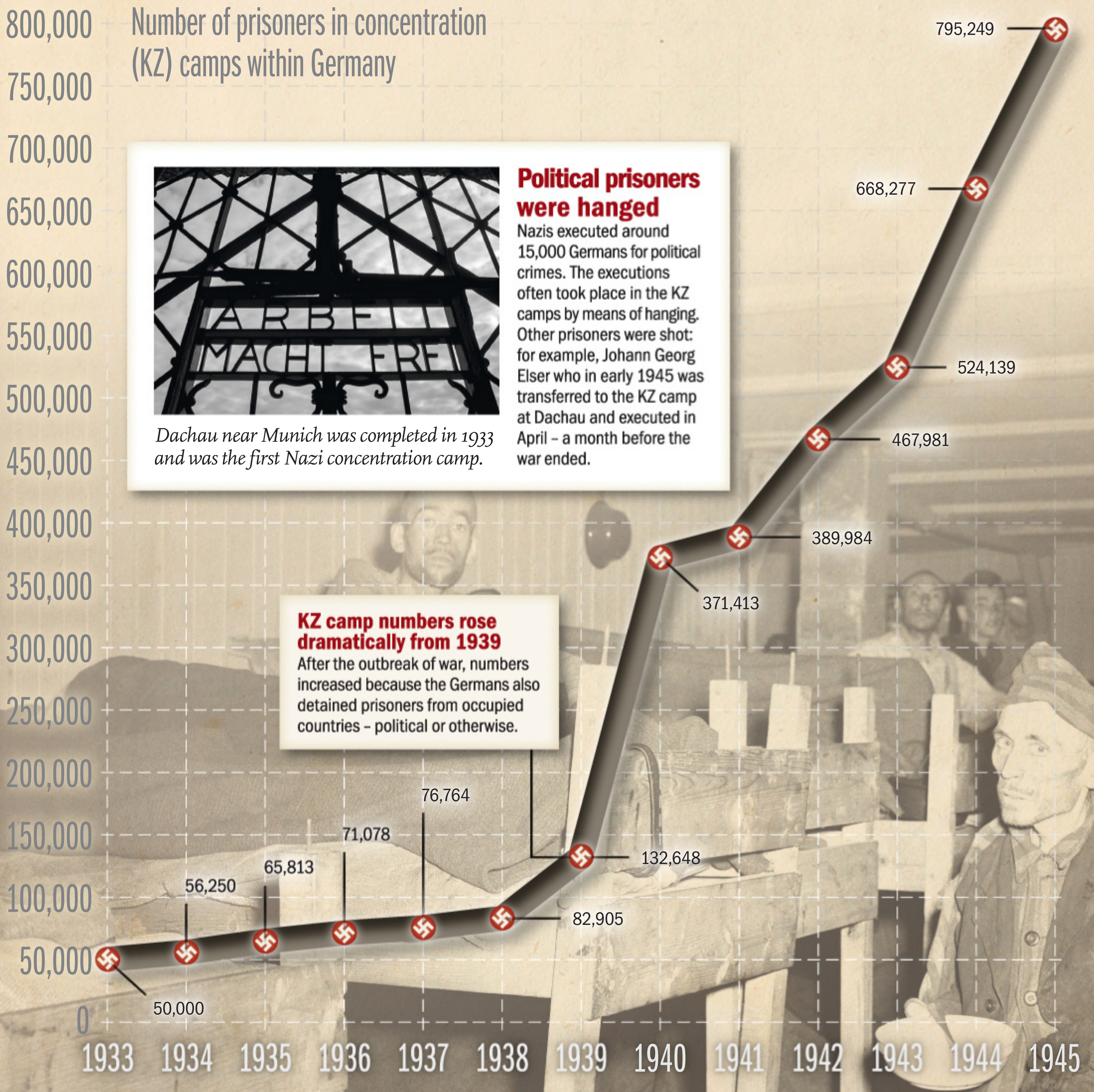
Several thousand Germans paid with their lives for lack of allegiance to the Nazis. But their resistance proved that not all Germans remained passive towards the regime.



The guillotine's blade that executed Christoph Probst along with Hans and Sophie Scholl weighed 15 kg.

KZ camps relieved prisons

The Nazis had built concentration camps within Germany in the 1930s. Unlike the later extermination camps that were built in German-occupied territories with the specific purpose of exterminating Jews, the purpose of concentration camps before the war was mainly to intern German opponents of the regime.



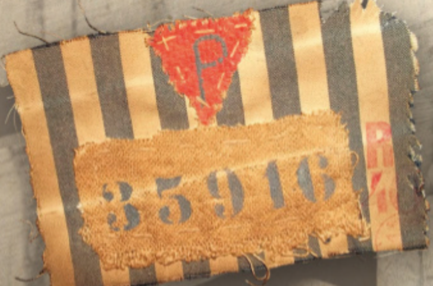
Dachau near Munich was completed in 1933 and was the first Nazi concentration camp.

Political prisoners were hanged

Nazis executed around 15,000 Germans for political crimes. The executions often took place in the KZ camps by means of hanging. Other prisoners were shot: for example, Johann Georg Elser who in early 1945 was transferred to the KZ camp at Dachau and executed in April – a month before the war ended.

KZ camp numbers rose dramatically from 1939

After the outbreak of war, numbers increased because the Germans also detained prisoners from occupied countries – political or otherwise.



A red triangle on their clothes showed that an inmate was a non-Jewish political prisoner.

When the air raid was over, surviving inhabitants searched through the streets, hoping that their homes were still intact.

1944

4TH OCTOBER

LIVES IN RUINS

THE THIRD REICH'S HOME FRONT COLLAPSES

In late 1944, German mothers – amid the rubble of bombed-out streets in big cities – face long queues outside shops with nothing left on the shelves. The Third Reich's women hustle through the urban ruins, while the men are at the front and children evacuated to the countryside.

Germany, 1944

THE STAGE IS SET

As the war progresses, Adolf Hitler's promise of a brighter future dims. As air sirens howl over and over to herald the approach of more Allied bombers to the cities, Germans live with increasing shortages, missing men at the front and grief over dead relatives among the ruins.

Anneliese Heider's fingers tapped away as she focussed on the typewriter's black keys on Wednesday 4th October, 1944. The 16-year-old clerk made an extra effort, because after five years of war, there was a shortage of paper in Germany. When Anneliese hit the wrong key, she carefully tried to rub out the mistake, leaving the document almost unreadable.

The sun's rays streamed through the windows on the fourth floor of the building where Anneliese and the other clerks in Munich's railway administration sat for five days a week. The fine weather prevented the building getting cold, unlike other days when girls had to sit wearing knitted mittens to keep warm. But the blue sky nevertheless gave rise to murmurs and sighs. The girls knew only too well that clear weather often meant Allied air raids on Munich.

Parts of the southern German city were already in ruins. On the way to work from her parents' house on the outskirts of the city each morning Anneliese observed the rubble in the streets. In many places the façades of buildings had collapsed after being bombed, leaving them looking like giant doll's houses where everyone could look straight into the living rooms and kitchens.

The clerks were right to be concerned about the air strikes. That morning, sirens howled across Munich, and the clerks automatically left, picking up their

German cities lay in ruins at the end of the war, and many of the homeless had to be put up by their fellow countrymen.

coats and packed lunches and taking their typewriters with them. The girls had been given precise instructions that the appliances were difficult to replace and must not be lost.

On the stairs Anneliese followed a line of employees heading down five floors into the basement shelter, where the clerk pushed her typewriter under a bench. The entire procedure was now a routine part of everyday war. The population's enthusiasm over the war's early victories had long been replaced by fear, deprivation, loss and hunger.

The war divided families

Many Germans had enthusiastically backed Hitler throughout the 1930s in the hope of better living conditions, but from the moment Nazi Germany's armies crossed the border into Poland in September 1939, a new reality for the German people emerged.

Month after month station platforms across Germany filled with weeping women and children who kissed lovers, husbands and fathers goodbye as trains headed off towards the front. Those relatives left behind had only their worries and fears of never seeing their men again.

Though losses in the war's first two years were relatively low, everyone feared the postman turning up with a black-edged envelope with the message that a husband or son had "fallen for the Führer".

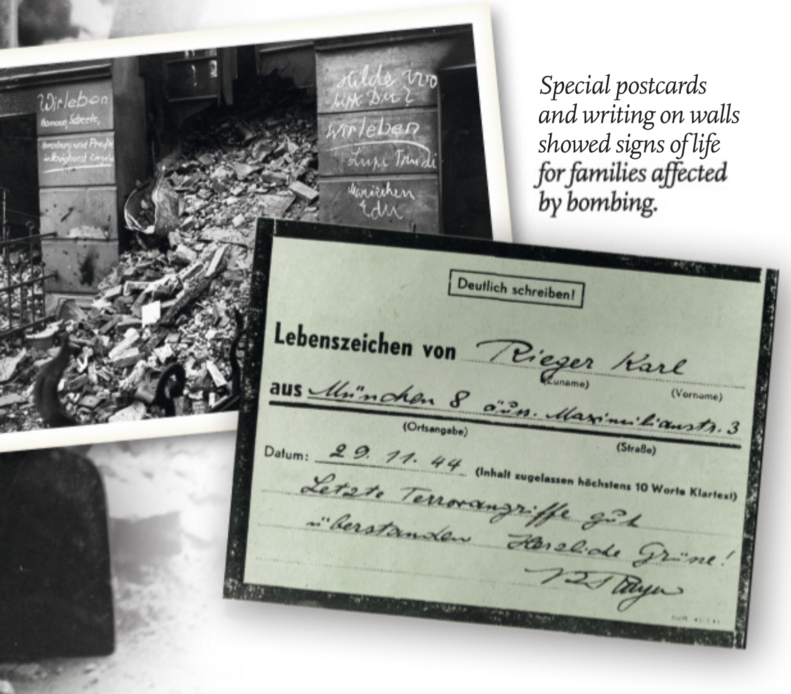
Anneliese Heider feared that one day her family would receive such a letter. The girl's father could not become a soldier because of a lost arm in World War I. But her brother Ludwig was called up to the Reichsarbeitsdienst when he finished school where young men worked in the fields. In the summer of 1941 her father, mother and sister watched as 20-year-old Ludwig was sent away to the 1,800-kilometre-long Eastern Front that had just been opened up by Hitler.

"We all were worried about him. Sometimes, as we sat down to have a meal, mama broke into tears wondering where her son was and if he had anything to eat", recounted Anneliese after the war.

In total Hitler sent 3.7 million troops against the Soviet Union, and almost all Germans had a close family member at the front – a situation that played hard on the psyche.

"Even when I summon all my energy together, your uncertain fate eats away at me constantly", a 43-year-old woman expressed in a letter to her husband, who in 1943 had not been heard from for months. The letters from the front could take several weeks to arrive, especially in the last years of the war. But every time the postman arrived empty handed, women's anxiety grew.

Not only were the men missed every day, a lack of basic provisions put pressure on Germans at home.



Deutlich schreiben!

Lebenszeichen von Rieger Karl
(Zuname) (Vorname)
aus München 8 äuß. Maximilianstr. 3
(Ortsangabe) (Straße)
Datum: 29. 11. 44 (Inhalt zugelassen höchstens 10 Worte Klartext)
Letzte Terrorangriffe gut
überstanden Herzliche Grüße!

Special postcards and writing on walls showed signs of life for families affected by bombing.

Alleman's Tabak
SHAG
DIEPENVEENSCHE TABAKCENTRALE
DEVENTER-HOLLAND

After war broke out, luxury goods such as tobacco became harder to obtain.

Hunger and cold were daily issues

Although the Nazi regime had introduced rationing on 28th August, 1939, the standard of living did not drop dramatically over the war's first two years. Housewives could still find products on the shelves and rationing cards allowed them reasonable amounts of meat, bread and butter. Only luxury goods such as alcohol, coffee and tobacco could not be enjoyed in the same quantities as before.

But the crisis accelerated when bombs fell systematically over Germany, destroying cities, factories and railways in 1942. The shops became emptier, clothes shop mannequins stood naked and queues grew outside of shops. A notification of sugar was no guarantee that the store had any, so housewives queued up early in the morning to increase the chance of getting hold of the scarce goods. In the meantime, women discussed how 200 grams of flour or one decilitre milk could stretch for several days.

"People in the shops talk about nothing apart from food... This everyday palaver is getting increasingly on my nerves... At home, there is the constant worry about what we are going to cook... We lack so many of the ingredients that we need. Housewives are certainly not having it easy at the moment", a woman wrote to her husband at the front.

Experience from World War I had shown the Nazi leaders that food shortages could cause people to turn against the regime. The authorities therefore tried hard to procure sugar from Hungary and grain from Ukraine. But when the soldiers on the beleaguered Eastern Front also needed food, the regime found itself caught in a dilemma and had to think creatively. To improve the food situation at home, Nazis ordered female schoolteachers into the woods to pick everything from herbs, sorrel and chives to nettles and dandelions. Moreover the regime counselled German housewives in how the ingredients could be turned into soup.

Germans were always foraging for anything edible. Anneliese took her mother to the forest where edible mushrooms were a "very special treat", when her mother cleaned and sautéed them with onions and parsley. The Heider family was also fortunate enough to have a garden with herbs, beans and fruit, which sweetened their frugal life.

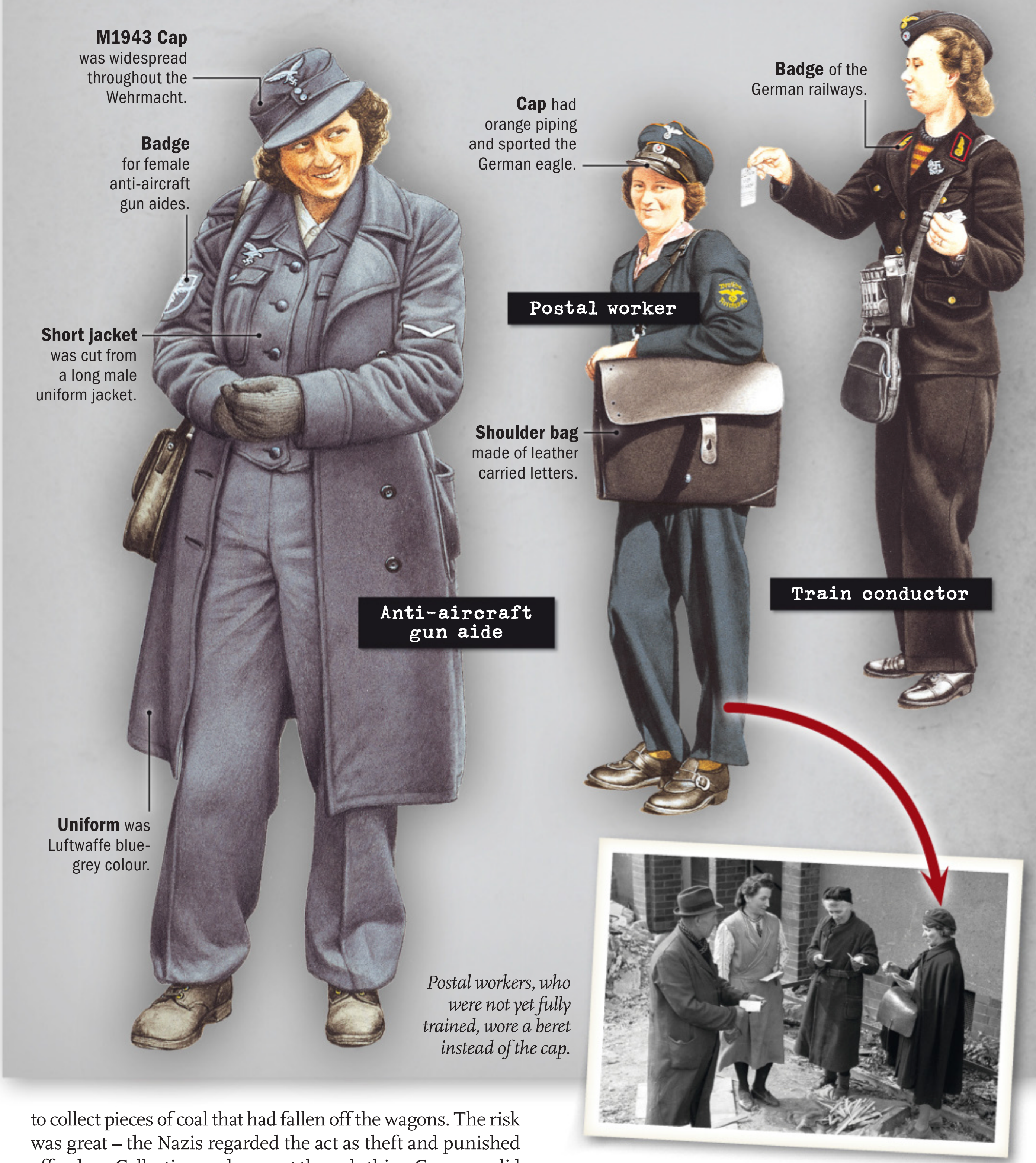
Toilet paper was also difficult to find, so it was Anneliese's responsibility to provide an alternative:

"It was my job to sit down with a stack of old newspapers and cut a supply of toilet paper. But before using this home-made toilet paper, I had to crumple each piece several times to soften it".

Coal for cooking and heating was almost impossible to come by. Sometimes the cold was so harsh that in the dark of night the family crept out to the railway tracks

Women pulled on uniforms

When the men went to the front, women had to take on public jobs that according to Nazi ideology would otherwise never have been intended for the weaker sex.



M1943 Cap was widespread throughout the Wehrmacht.

Badge for female anti-aircraft gun aides.

Short jacket was cut from a long male uniform jacket.

Uniform was Luftwaffe blue-grey colour.

Cap had orange piping and sported the German eagle.

Shoulder bag made of leather carried letters.

Badge of the German railways.

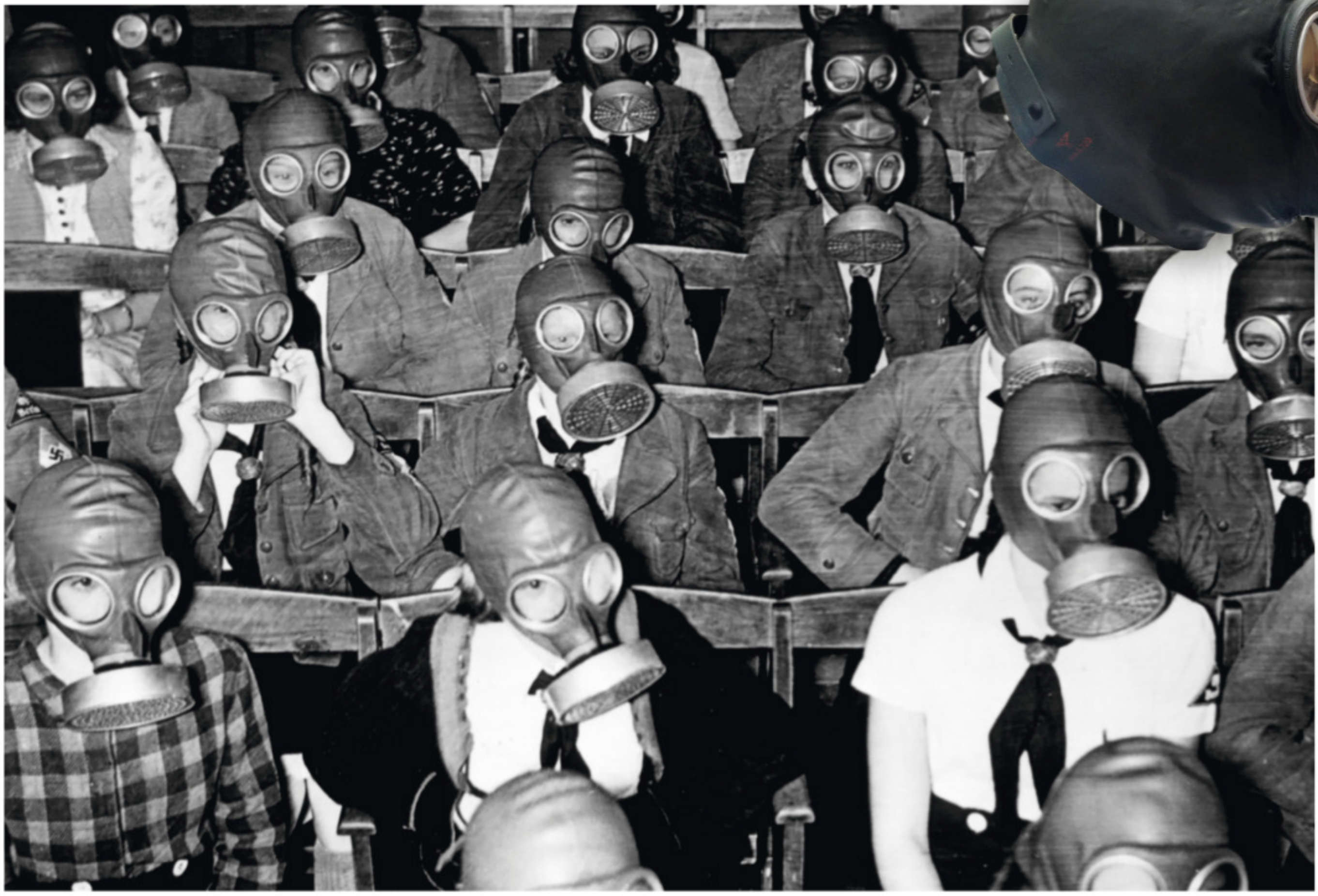
Postal workers, who were not yet fully trained, wore a beret instead of the cap.

to collect pieces of coal that had fallen off the wagons. The risk was great – the Nazis regarded the act as theft and punished offenders. Collecting coal was not the only thing Germans did to break the law in an attempt to provide basic necessities: black market trade flourished in the Third Reich.

BLACK MARKET THRIVED

Increasingly tight rationing forced Germans to drive to the country for food – even though the act was criminal – in what were known as Hamsterfharten (hamstering trips). Townsfolk often brought watches, tobacco or clothes for payment as things had greater value than a bundle of Reichsmark. Farmers could be seen dressed in fine clothes that were taken in exchange for grain and meat on the black market. The regime tried to prevent the illegal trade with

Gas mask VM 37 was produced specifically to protect civilians.



Young girls from Nazi organization Bund Deutscher Mädel were given lessons in using a gas mask in September 1939. The Nazis feared that the enemy would use chemical weapons during air raids on German cities.

severe penalties, but often had difficulty grabbing the merchants who hid behind random stalls or in small alleys in the city. Nazi officials, however – considering people's hunger – were not surprised that shady dealings were going on.

One Nazi Gauleiter described how people were both hoarding and buying goods furtively from under the counter, at the door, on the black market and even through barter at wildly inflated prices. He observed this grew as fast as the bitterness among those who didn't have the contacts, time or ability to act illegally, or whose conscience forbid them from breaking the law.

For most people however, conscience played no significant role, as their stomachs rumbled, and children went to bed hungry. While the poor had no options to fill their stomachs, more affluent Germans sold their possessions to get an extra chicken or additional pound of butter – even educated people like professor's wife Mathilde Wolff-Mönckeberg.

"Believe it or not, even I have taken to bartering as everybody else does, and it really has its fascination", Wolff-Mönckeberg wrote in a letter to her children and explained that the family's old dining table had been taken in barter.

"I am quite upset about this table, but we cannot afford sentimentality. I have exchanged the table for fat and meat and quite a number of other delicatessen, which the new owner will bring from her canteen. What else can one do these days? The stomach demands its due and money does not buy a thing", she elaborated. The loss of loved one's belongings that were part of barter, was nothing compared to the loss of privacy – as many German families had to make room in their homes for the homeless.

Strangers stayed with the Heiders

When Allied aircraft turned more and more German residential areas into ruins during 1943, the Nazi regime commanded that families who still had their home free up space to house homeless Germans. For Anneliese Heider and her family on the outskirts of Munich, the order meant that in the late summer of 1943 a finely dressed baroness and her daughter suddenly knocked at the door to find shelter. The baroness had genuine jewellery the likes of which Anneliese had never seen before. Decorative jewels were in turn the only thing the guests had left – everything else lay hidden under the rubble of their destroyed homes in Hamburg.

The lodgers moved into Anneliese and Ludwig's room where a stove was lined up with two plates. Before the war, the North Germans had been accustomed to having servants who cleaned, shopped and cooked for them, so the baroness again and again turned to the family to help with household chores.

A young girl also moved into a basement room in the Heider's home, and Anneliese was obliged to sleep in the living room. With three lodgers it meant that everyone had to squeeze into the family's small bunker in the basement, and that they all had to share the water in the weekly bath.

"With so many people coming and going at different times, our once private and comfortable home had become very crowded, more like a boarding house. Our living room, now my bedroom, became my only refuge, a place where I could withdraw from the turmoil of our crazy quilt existence and live wherever my books and my imagination could take me", said Anneliese later. Many Germans used books as an escape. In a book the reader could escape from fear, hunger and the ruins.

Also, theatres and cinemas were popular even when bombs rained down heavily. In Greater Germany there were over 7,000 cinemas, including 400 in Berlin, and propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels said it was important for people's morale that establishments continued to offer entertainment.

Anneliese Heider often went to the pictures with her work colleague Martina, but only when the sky was cloudy, so the girls wouldn't risk Allied bombs cutting the film short.

Mathilde Wolff-Mönckeberg also trudged "through rain, and storm... even snow" to go to classical concerts and the professor's wife noted that it was not just cultured citizens who took refuge in a world without longing and worries:

"Public lectures on Shakespeare are packed. The biggest university auditorium is stuffed to capacity with all kinds of people, who, in the old days, would never have dreamed of coming". According to the journalist Ursula von Kardorff more affluent people held feasts in the middle of the capital's misery – but the reason was much more tragicomic.

"The thing is to have as many parties as possible and to make the most of one's house while it is still there", wrote von Kardorff.

Housewives had new roles

The ideal of a woman as housewife came under pressure as the need for women grew in the labour market.

According to the Nazi ideology the role of women was to bear children and care for the home while men worked. Gradually though, Hitler relaxed the ideal, as German industry and agriculture needed labour. In the late 1930s he introduced a so-called Pflichtjahr, where young women had to take on compulsory labour in households and on farms across the Reich for a year.

Slightly older housewives also had to work outside the home – in 1943 approximately 1.2 million German women worked in the armaments industry.

Weapons' factories especially needed female labour during the war.

Children played in the rubble

While parents could only escape their worries briefly, children were good at finding diversion in everyday life. The youngest had never known anything but war, and as they clambered among the rubble they did not think that disease and death lurked around every corner. The ruins were an exciting playground where they could climb the mountain of rubble and play hide and seek collecting shrapnel from grenades.

"All around them was destruction, but the children's sheer joy showed that for them at least for them the world was not at an end", noted one mother from Bremerhaven, when she had to pull her daughter out of a dangerous game one day.

"It was such a scene of childhood happiness that I didn't have the heart to disturb it... 'Wheee!' My Ute screamed in joyful chorus with the other children as, with gleaming eyes, they slid down a heap of rubble just as if it were a children's slide... She looked at me with sheer delight in her eyes".

At other times the ruins offered macabre experiences – as 11-year-old Ulli Fromann discovered.

"Yesterday we found a soldier's boot in a pile of rubble. There was still a bit of bone in it", described the girl in a letter to her father, who fought on the Eastern Front.

At the beginning of the war, the children went to school as usual, but from 1943 students had more and more days off because of the bombing. As a rule, pupils would have two lessons later if bombs fell in the morning, while the bell would ring early if shelling occurred in the middle of the day, but that rarely happened.

"We are always pleased when school is cancelled because there is no heat there. And we don't do any homework because we don't have any books", wrote Ulli's younger sister Jutta in a letter to her father in 1945 – the sisters had not seen him in six years.

Childhood was also harsh. Often children would sit and cry with their mothers, mostly missing their fathers and perhaps older brothers at the front. As the head of the family was absent, children rolled up their sleeves and took responsibility at a young age.

"I do a lot because mother is so timid", wrote a 10-year-old boy in his diary, while Ulli wrote to her father that, "I try to be a stand-in father for Mummy, because I'm practical like you and Mummy's not good at that sort of thing".

Often the children had to look after younger siblings, keep their position in the queue at the shops and help to keep the home clean amid the dusty ruins. But the chores were often on an empty stomach, and mothers were in despair at not being able to do more for their sons and daughters.

"After we have eaten, they [the children] always ask what else is there to eat", wrote a

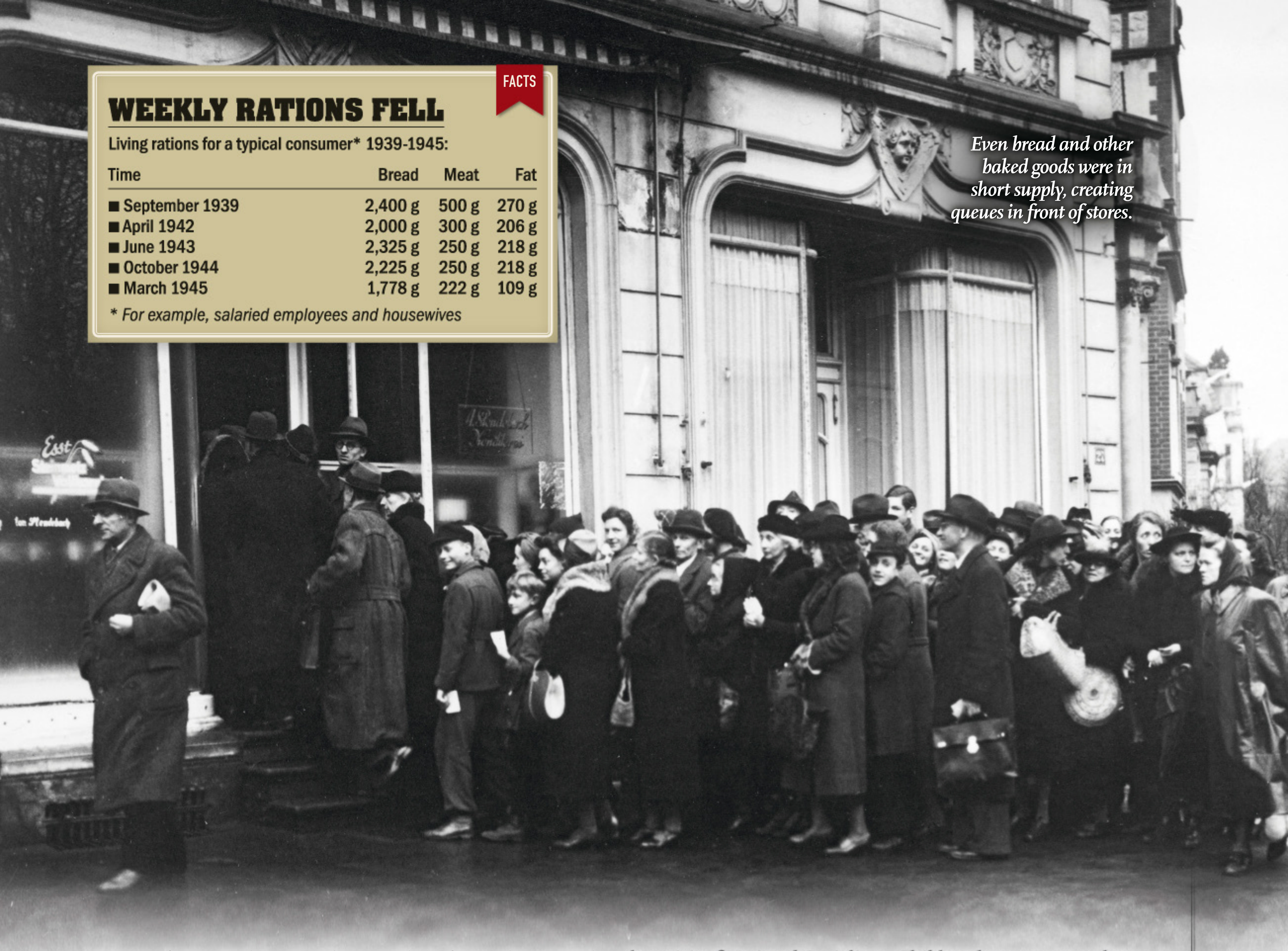
FACTS

WEEKLY RATIONS FELL

Living rations for a typical consumer* 1939-1945:

Time	Bread	Meat	Fat
■ September 1939	2,400 g	500 g	270 g
■ April 1942	2,000 g	300 g	206 g
■ June 1943	2,325 g	250 g	218 g
■ October 1944	2,225 g	250 g	218 g
■ March 1945	1,778 g	222 g	109 g

** For example, salaried employees and housewives*



Even bread and other baked goods were in short supply, creating queues in front of stores.

woman from Berlin. Another mother from the capital reported that her children refused to eat rotten potatoes and the boys “began to cry because there was nothing else to eat”.

For a woman who in August 1944 had not heard a word from her husband on the Eastern Front, the constant struggle for her family’s survival was becoming too much. In her diary she complained to her husband:

“Why aren’t I just lying beneath the rubble? There are so many difficulties to negotiate, and it is really not in my nature to be a battler. I’m in despair... I do not know if you are ever coming back, or if you’ve been dead for a long time. And I would so like to relax again. I’m at the end of my tether”.

The woman nevertheless found the strength to keep things going at home. Other mothers had to make a worse decision.

CHILDREN WERE SENT TO THE COUNTRY

Hunger was greatest in the bombed-out cities, and especially in the war’s last two years when living conditions became so miserable that many parents decided to send the children away. In September 1940, a memo stated, “On the orders of the Führer, children from areas of repeated night air raids have... been sent to other areas of the Reich”. But at first, parents found it very difficult to sign the document that would send their children to Kinderlandverschickung – away from the bomb-threatened cities and into the countryside.

What seemed like a considerate action by the regime was in fact primarily intended as an effective way to educate youth in the spirit of National Socialism. Children between 10 and 14 were sent to a combination of boarding school and Hitler Youth camps, where, according to one German boy, “We participated in rituals... calculated to serve the same goals, and intended to wean us from all unboyish, “weak” activities”.

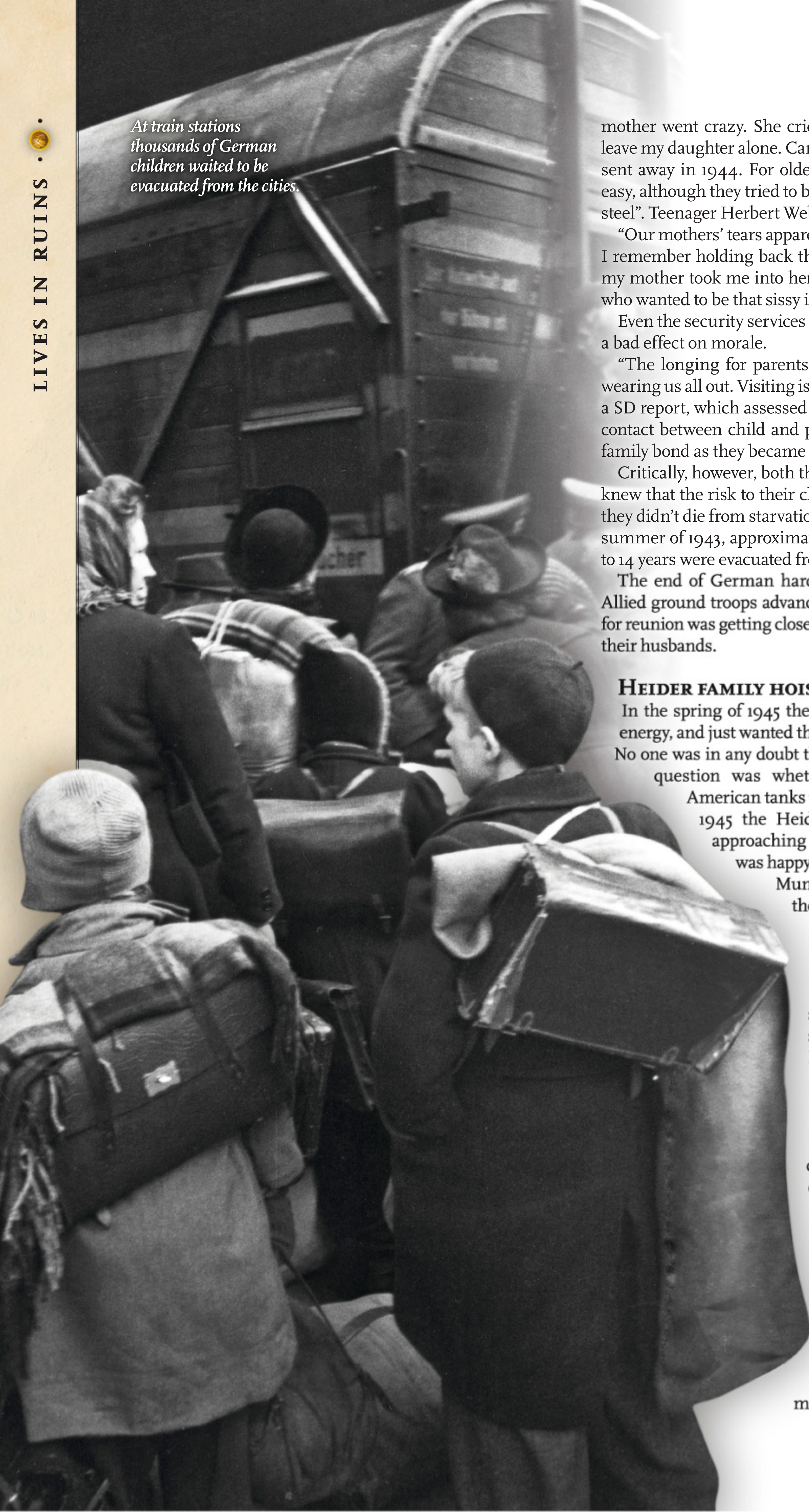
Children under 10 years were usually accommodated with a host family where not everyone was treated well.

Many hosts only took the children on to earn three Reichsmarks per day – a fee paid by the State. At the same time the child was often used as free labour on the farm.

As the situation became even more miserable in the big cities during 1943, many mothers had no alternative but to send the children into the countryside where their sons and daughters could at least get more food and not risk being blown to pieces by bombs. But parting was not easy.

“I was loaded onto a bus. Then my

When the bombs dropped on Germany, cafés were set up in basements.



At train stations thousands of German children waited to be evacuated from the cities.

mother went crazy. She cried like mad and said, 'I cannot leave my daughter alone. Can't you see...'" said a girl who was sent away in 1944. For older boys too, the situation wasn't easy, although they tried to be "hard as Krupp-manufactured steel". Teenager Herbert Weber recounted:

"Our mothers' tears apparently had no impact upon us. But I remember holding back the feelings that overcame me as my mother took me into her arms. I could have wailed. But who wanted to be that sissy in front of all one's peers?"

Even the security services noted that family separation had a bad effect on morale.

"The longing for parents and children for each other is wearing us all out. Visiting is rarely possible or allowed..." said a SD report, which assessed that the distance and the lack of contact between child and parents eventually damaged the family bond as they became strangers to each other.

Critically, however, both the regime and children's parents knew that the risk to their children needed to be reduced so they didn't die from starvation or bombing. At the start of the summer of 1943, approximately 1.7 million children aged six to 14 years were evacuated from bomb-threatened cities.

The end of German hardship was not too far away. As Allied ground troops advanced closer to Germany, the time for reunion was getting closer for mothers, their children and their husbands.

HEIDER FAMILY HOISTED THE WHITE FLAG

In the spring of 1945 the Germans were running out of energy, and just wanted the war to end as soon as possible. No one was in any doubt that Germany was defeated. The question was whether it would be Russian or American tanks that arrived first. On 29th April, 1945 the Heider family heard artillery fire approaching from the west, and Anneliese was happy that the Americans would reach Munich before the Red Army – on the one hand rumours spread of Russian violence and mass rape while on the other it was US troops distributing chocolate.

But no one knew what the situation would be in the southern German city, and the Heider family began preparations. All day the household took beds, food, water, blankets and clothes down to the basement, so they could survive if the fighting dragged on. Anneliese also noted that her father had prepared a white sheet to signal surrender.

"I hope he knows when the time is right. If he hangs the flag up too soon and there are any SS around, they will hang him from the nearest tree. If he doesn't hang it out soon enough Americans troops will most certainly shell anything they feel is hostile", thought Anneliese. At night she slept poorly as her mind raced thinking about the dramatic fates of her friend Martina and her brother Ludwig. Two months earlier, Martina had died of a simple infection because of drug shortages in the city, and Ludwig had been taken prisoner by the Russians.

"Dear God, please be with my brother and bring him back to us safely. Mama desperately needs her son back. I don't think she can survive without him", Anneliese prayed.

One night residents heard that German soldiers had withdrawn, and in the morning the Heider family saw the first US tank rumble through the street outside the house. Anneliese's father raced up to the roof and hung a white flag out of a small window. Later the same day it was reported that the city's forces had surrendered, and the Americans had established a headquarters in Anneliese's old school.

But even though the war was over for the Heider family, they had to wait three and a half years before Ludwig returned home from the Soviet Union. Anneliese heaved a sigh of relief on 30th April – six years of worries and frustration was over.

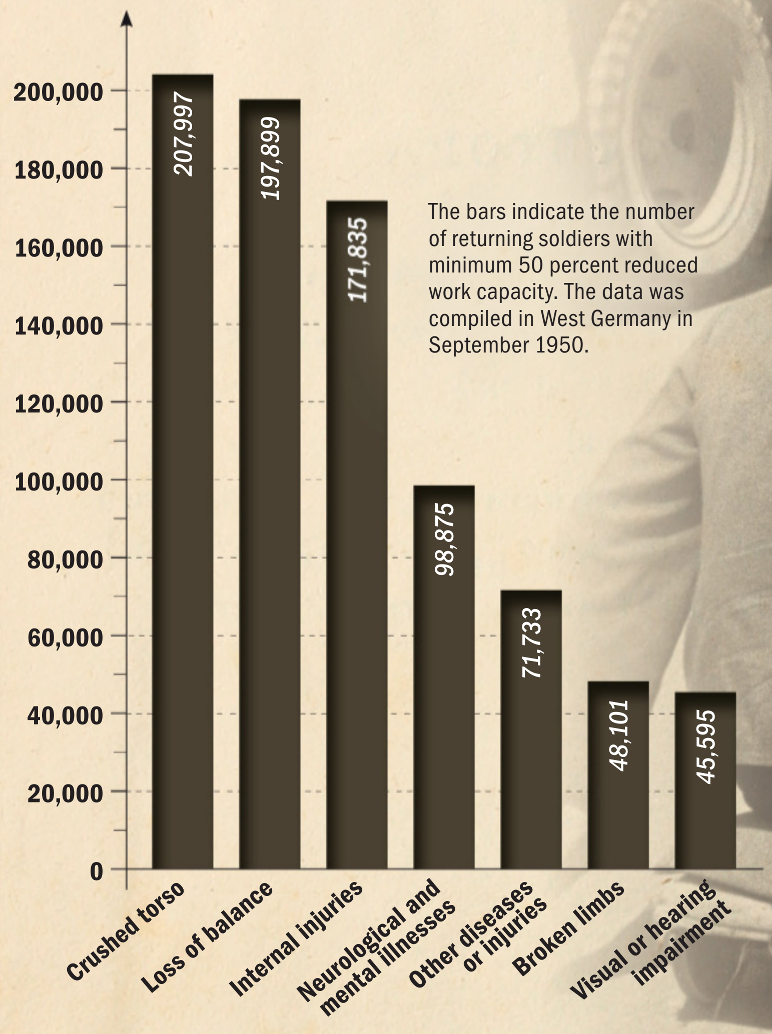
"I was 11 years old when this nightmare started, now I'm 17. Years lost to the war – my youth lost to war. But somehow we survived".

PERSPECTIVE

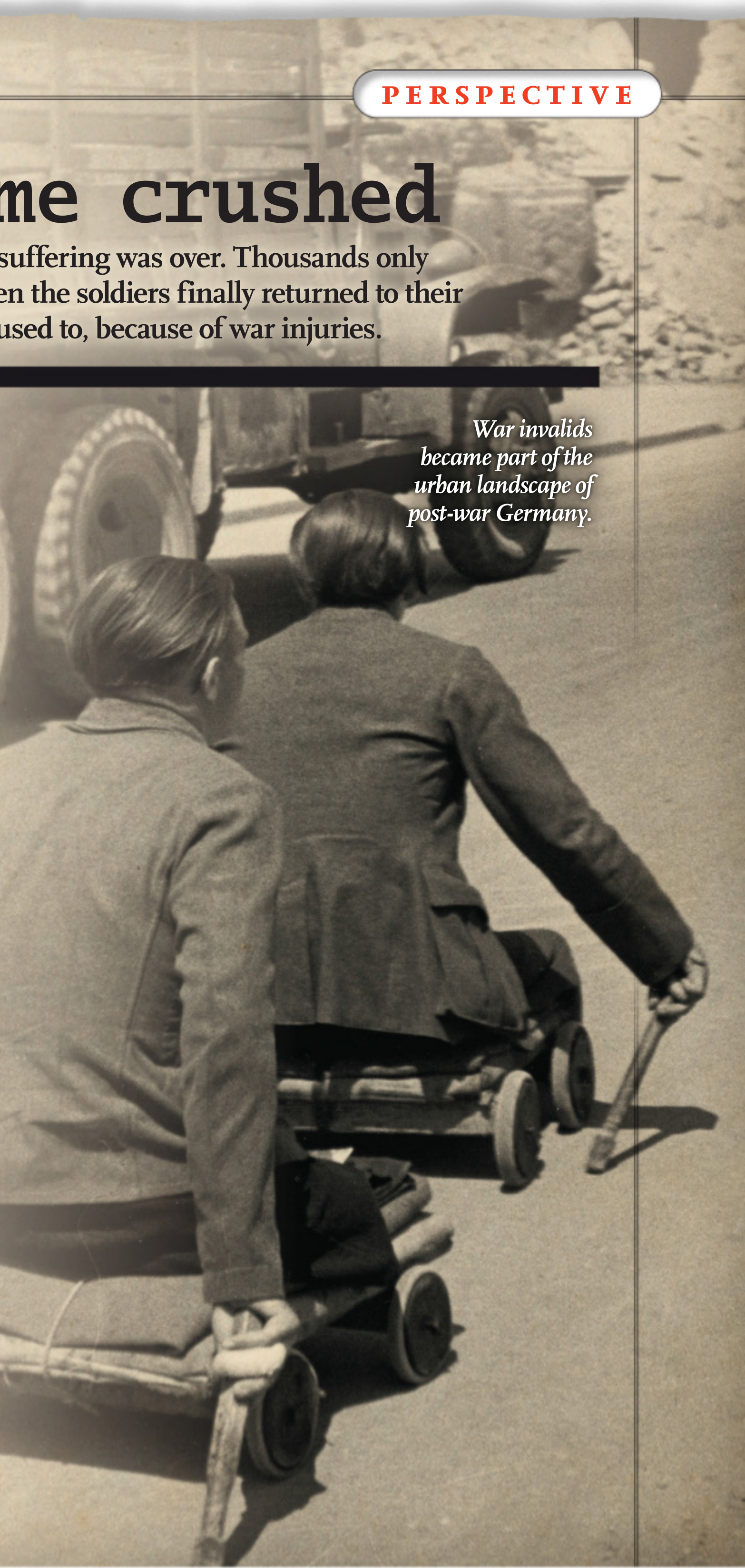
Soldiers came home crushed

The end of the war did not mean that the German soldiers' suffering was over. Thousands only returned home after many years in Allied captivity. And when the soldiers finally returned to their families, many found that they were unable to work as they used to, because of war injuries.

Soldiers with reduced ability to work



The bars indicate the number of returning soldiers with minimum 50 percent reduced work capacity. The data was compiled in West Germany in September 1950.



War invalids became part of the urban landscape of post-war Germany.

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“Like a Roman emperor Hitler rode into this medieval town at sundown”

The words are written by the American journalist William L Shirer in 1934 after a grandstanding Nazi performance in Nuremberg. Shirer was amazed at the masses’ admiration for Adolf Hitler, but could not hide his fascination with the grandiose scenes of Hitler’s cult. The Nazis’ talent for staging tricked an entire nation into believing that Hitler could solve all their problems. In the first year of the dictator’s regime, he created economic growth. But the recovery occurred with borrowed money, and at the same time Hitler transformed Germany into a society in which the state ruled with violence, and the wrong word could cost people their lives.

URBAN PLANNING

Construction was never completed

Zeppelin was king of the skies

HITLER IS THE NEW MESSIAH

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